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ABSTRACT

Part 5 of this five part project helps students of the Tasmanian region of Australia explore the history of Port Arthur, a 19th century penal colony located in Tasmania. The project is based on three ideas: (1) studying history can be educational and enjoyable; (2) imagination is an essential part of studying history; and (3) history is most of all a means by which to seek to understand the present--one's self and society as it exists now. Part 5 of the project contains 35 profiles of Port Arthur residents: convicts, military personnel, and free persons. (DB)

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5

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PROFILES

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PORT ARTHUR

1. MODEL PRISON
2. THE ASYLUM,
NOW A VISITORS' CENTRE
3. THE PAUPERS' MESS
4. THE HOSPITAL
5. O'BRIEN'S COTTAGE
6. TOWER COTTAGES
7. SIGNAL STATION
8. THE COMMANDANT'S HOUSE
9. THE GUARD TOWER
10. COURTHOUSES AND LIBRARY
11. PENITENTIARY
12. DOCKYARD AREA
13. GOVERNMENT COTTAGE
14. THE CHURCH
15. CIVIL OFFICERS'
HOUSES



 HISTORICAL RUINS (LOCATION OF DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS SHOWN IN DOTTED LINES)

 BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES ERECTED AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE SETTLEMENT

PORT ARTHUR ALIVE

**EXPLORING
PAST AND PRESENT**

5 PROFILES

**A JOINT PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF TASMANIA**



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Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Hobart—p.11, watercolour painting of the church at Port Arthur, c1860.
Maritime Museum Tasmania—p.45, photo by J.C. Harrison, c1912.
Archives Office of Tasmania—p.69, late 19th-century photograph, thought to be of Bill Thompson, an ex-convict and later a guide at Port Arthur; pp.73-4, drawings by Edward Murphy.

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As you are reading this book, you will notice that some names appear in bold type within paragraphs. These persons are the subjects of other Profiles in this book. If you would like more information about any of these people, read the relevant Profile in this book.

PROFILE



James Travers, or Travis Convict

Convict department indent (18/4)

Name	TRAVIS James No. 963
Trade	Labourer
Height	5ft 4in
Age	18
Complexion	Brown
Head	Oval
Hair	Dark brown
Whiskers	—
Visage	Long
Forehead	M[edium] H[eight]
Eyebrows	Dk brown
Eyes	Dk hazel
Nose	M[edium] L[ength]
Mouth	M[edium] W[idth]
Chin	Long
Remarks	Several blue spots back of left arm. Scar under rt jaw.

James Travers was a prisoner at Port Arthur in 1840-41. He was then a young man (about nineteen years old), but little else is known about him. In official records he is described as a labourer, fairly short (5ft 4in or 163cm), with brown hair, evidence of a tattoo on his left arm and a scar under his jaw. No record of his offences has been unearthed. In April 1841 he was working in heavy chains attached to a cable, breaking stones, near where the main street crosses the creek. According to evidence later given in court, Travers was suspected by some of his fellow convicts of having told authorities about a plan to escape, in which the prisoners would cut through their irons with a stolen file. One of the stone-breakers, Patrick Minahan, attacked Travers with a stone-breaking hammer and badly wounded him about the head. Travers later died in the hospital, and **Minahan** was tried and executed for his murder.



LOOKING FURTHER: **Profile 29** tells the story of the killer of Travers, Patrick Minahan. A similar crime is dealt with in **Profiles 8** and **25**, and 'murder' is the subject of **Eyewitness 3**.

PROFILE

2

Henry Savery Convict novelist

Henry Savery was born on 4 August 1791 at Butcombe, Somerset, England. He was the sixth son of John Savery, a Bristol banker. He probably received a grammar school education and was apprenticed to a business in Bristol. He was engaged in sugar refining (through which he became bankrupt) and editing a newspaper. He married Eliza Elliott Oliver in 1815 and they had a son, Henry Oliver, on 30 June 1816. He again took up sugar refining, but after putting his firm into debt he forged bills. His business partner took legal action and he was arrested on a ship while attempting to flee the country. He pleaded guilty to forgery and was condemned to death, but had his sentence commuted to life transportation on 3 April 1825.

Savery arrived in Hobart Town in the *Medway* in December 1825 and because of his writing skills—hard to find in the young Colony—he was employed as a clerk in government service. But he again got into debt and was also troubled by marriage problems, his wife having followed him to Van Diemen's Land. She left for England after only four months in the Colony and during that time Savery tried to commit suicide by cutting his throat.

When he was imprisoned for debt in 1829, Savery wrote for a Hobart Town newspaper, the *Colonial Times*. This series of essays about life in Hobart Town was later published as *The Hermit in Van Diemen's Land*. A prominent lawyer, Gamaliel Butler, claimed he was libelled in the articles and was awarded £80.

When he was released Savery wrote *Quintus Servinton*, the first Australian novel. It was based on his own life and the title character's name was derived from a family name, Servington. The book was well received in Hobart Town. The Colonial Secretary agreed that Savery had atoned for his sins and he was released on a ticket-of-leave in 1832. Legal action was again brought against him in 1833 by a disgruntled magistrate who had been criticised in the newspaper Savery was then temporarily editing, the *Tasmanian*, and for a short time Savery again lost his ticket-of-leave.

Gardening and agriculture were favourite occupations of Savery and for the next five years he leased farms for development; he even offered advice to Governor George Arthur on improving pasture. He again fell into debt, however, soon after receiving a conditional pardon in 1838, and was sent to Port Arthur in 1840 for forging bills. He died in hospital fifteen months later in 1842, either from a stroke or by cutting his own throat.

Convict record

SAVERY, Henry: Transported *Medway*. Convicted for forgery 2 April 1825; sentenced to transportation for life. Married, 1 child.

Gaol report: 'made a desperate attempt to break Prison'.

Received ticket-of-leave 1833.

29 May 1833—Inserting in *Tasmanian* newspaper of which he is the Editor, an article tending to traduce Mr Gordon's character . . .

9 July 1833—Ticket-of-leave suspended for 12 months. 'Upon Sentence being pronounced Mr Gordon intimated through his counsel that Savery be only Admonished and that Mr Gordon would sign a Memorial in his favour on being applied to on that Subject.'

2 September 1838—Conditional Pardon.

6 October 1840—Feloniously forging and uttering as true a promissory note for the payment of £34.15.0 with intent to defraud—Committed for trial.

29 October 1840—Transportation for life.

Died at Port Arthur 16 February 1842.

The dying convict

From the cells we went to the hospital, where we had a signal opportunity of drawing a wholesome moral from the sad—the miserable consequences of crime. There, upon a stretcher, lay Henry Savery, the once-celebrated Bristol sugar-maker . . . The forgery (1825) and the miraculous escape from execution of this unhappy man cannot have escaped the public mind . . . [He eventually was subjected] to the ordeal of Port Arthur. There he experienced a shock of paralysis, and there, ere long, in all human probability, the misguided man will terminate his wretched career . . . Knowing, as I did at Bristol, some of Savery's wealthy, dashing, gay associates, I could not contemplate the miserable felon before me without sentiments of the deepest compassion, mingled with horror and awe. There he lay—a sad, solemn warning.

David Burn, 1842

PORT ARTHUR PORTUGAL

The breeze is blowing through
The trees silently now,
but it did not then
The buildings are broken down now
and the sun shines down on them
But long ago people slaved and
died and black clouds would float
over them
For they knew they couldn't escape



LOOKING FURTHER: Other middle-class intellectuals imprisoned at Port Arthur include Linus Miller (**Profile 14**) and John Frost (**Profile 30**). George Ives (**Profile 12**) was a free settler who became a prisoner.

PROFILE



Thomas James Lempriere *Commissariat officer*

Thomas Lempriere was born on 11 January 1796 at Hamburg, Germany, the son of Thomas Lempriere, a British banker and merchant, and his wife Harriet. He was interned by the French government at Verdun, France, in 1803, but was released soon after to join his mother in England. His father remained in captivity until 1813.

Lempriere emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in the *Regalia* in 1822, aged 26. The following year, in Hobart Town, he married **Charlotte Smith**, and over the next twenty years they were to have eleven children: Edward Marsh (1824-1849), Thomas Henry (1825-1917), William George (1826-1887), Charles Monteiro d'Almeida (1828-1908), Mary Earle (1829-1847), Francis Ross (1832-1912), Charlotte Sarah Harriett (1833-1885), James Moody (1835-1859), Lucy Maria (1838-1928), Frances (Fanny) Elizabeth (1840-1923) and Emily (1842-1934). A twelfth child, John, died in infancy.

Lempriere had served in the British army in France and the West Indies before emigrating, but he returned to the family business of merchant trading in Hobart Town. His father and mother joined him in 1825, with two of his sisters, but their business failed soon afterwards. Lempriere then went to Maria Island as a storekeeper with the Commissariat Department in 1826, but stayed at that convict settlement only a short time before being promoted and sent to Macquarie Harbour, where he lived with his wife and family for five years until being posted as a clerk to Hobart Town in 1831.

In 1833 Lempriere and family went to Port Arthur, and were to remain there for fifteen years. He was a senior clerk there until his promotion to Deputy Assistant Commissary General in 1837. He was again promoted—to Assistant Commissary General—in 1844, a position he held until leaving Port Arthur in 1848 to take a similar position in Oatlands.

While in Port Arthur, Lempriere was active not only in his official work but also as a painter (he painted portraits of Captain and Mrs Booth and encouraged others to take up the brushes), a student of natural history (he set up a museum in the Commissariat Store), and a writer (he edited the *Port Arthur Gazette* and later wrote 'The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land' for the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science*). He was also a diarist and he kept a regular record of his life at Port Arthur. He was fluent in French, spoke several other languages and played the horn and bugle.

Lempriere was recalled to England in 1849, and in 1850 was appointed Assistant Commissary General in Hong Kong. He became ill with dysentery while on a voyage back to England in 1852 and he died at sea. He was buried at Aden with military honours.

A convict's view of Lempriere

His was an accomplished and interesting family . . . [He was] one of those rare specimens of humanity whom nature has endowed with a soul so much larger and more noble than we generally meet with . . .

Linus Miller, assigned to Lempriere's family as tutor in 1842

A walk with the commandant

24 August 1833—Lempriere and self started at day-light for the head of Long Bay, walked from there to Ea. Hawk Neck—had a capital kangaroo steamer for breakfast, did our business (Board of Survey) and retraced our steps—very wet track—my companion nearly done up.

Journal of Captain Booth



LOOKING FURTHER: Background 9 and Eyewitness 16 deal with the lives of free officials and their families at Port Arthur. Profile 23 tells of Charlotte Lempriere and Profile 28 is about Ann Forrest, the Lemprieres' female servant. See also Profile 31 (Commandant Booth).



James Hall Convict

Convict department indent (18/19)

Name	HALL, James
Trade	Ploughman
Height	5ft 10in
Age	20
Complexion	Sallow
Head	Small and round
Hair	D. brown
Whiskers	None
Visage	Round
Forehead	Perpendicular
Eyebrows	D. brown
Eyes	Dk hazel
Nose	Sharp
Mouth	Rather wide, lips thick
Chin	Short
Remarks	Long arms . . . [tattoo on] right arm cross-anchor-half-moon . . . man-woman- crucifix inside left arm

James Hall was a prisoner at the Coal Mines (Plunkett Point) when he attempted to escape on 21 July 1838. He was recaptured a day later by **Private Robert Bayliss**, placed in heavy irons and sent off to Port Arthur with Bayliss as his guard, to face a charge of absconding from custody. The two left on the morning of 13 July to walk the eighteen miles to Port Arthur. It became dark while they were still on the road. According to Bayliss's later story, Hall 'made a bolt off the road among some old timber'. When Hall seemed to be 'making a rush towards me', Bayliss fired at him. Later medical evidence showed that Hall had been shot in the neck, and he probably died almost immediately.

Little is known of Hall's earlier life. He appears to have been born in Plymouth and worked as a ploughman before being transported for life to Van Diemen's Land (crime unknown) in 1831. His record has not been unearthed, but he possibly was sent to Port Arthur for absconding from a work gang. He was twenty years old when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the *Strathfieldsay* in 1831, which would have made him about twenty-seven when he died.

*If I was a convict I would feel lonely
and would miss my mum and dad.
I probably wouldn't try to escape
because if I was, I would be sentenced
to even more years and would probably
die anyway. I'd grow skinny with-
out much food. I would rather work
than read the bible and be alone.*

Chris

LOOKING FURTHER: Eyewitness 12 is about life at the Coal Mines. Escape in general is the subject of Background 8 and Eyewitness 9. Bayliss's story is told in Profile 10.

PROFILE

5

William Langham Convict

William Langham's early life is unknown. He was serving in the British Army in the West Indies in 1835 when he was sentenced to transportation for life for deserting from his regiment. He arrived in Hobart Town in October 1835 after an uneventful voyage; the surgeon reported that he was 'quiet, orderly on board but inclined to be slothful'.

Langham's record in Van Diemen's Land shows that he was a difficult prisoner, although some of the punishments may have been unduly severe. His main problems seem to have been laziness, impertinence and absconding. Until his last offence, however, his record shows only one occasion when he struck a person, which suggests that he was not a violent man by nature.

In 1842 he was being visited by the settlement's Medical Officer, **Dr Thomas Brownell**, when he attacked him outside his cell with a knife. Brownell was not badly hurt and Langham was quickly disarmed by the warder. He was committed for trial for assault with a knife, taken to Hobart Town, convicted and hanged.

Convict record

LANGHAM, William: Sentenced Jamaica 23 August 1835 for desertion from regiment; to be transported for life.

12 October 1835—endeavouring to take axe out of King's Yard (Hobart Town)—6 months' hard labour.

4 February—having in possession 3 hammer heads contrary to orders—present sentence extended 1 month.

15 February 1836—misbehaviour in church—10 days' treadwheel.

4 June 1836—insubordination and striking Mr Jones, overseer of the Penitentiary (Hobart Town)—2 years hard labour in chains and 75 lashes; recommended to be removed elsewhere.

2 January 1837—Absconding—50 lashes and removed to Port Arthur.

16 May 1837—abstracting a quantity of fat . . . 4 days' sol. conf. on bread and water.

17 August 1837—having turnips improperly in his possession—3 days' s.c. on bread and water.

4 October 1837—breaking a [building] stone by negligence—48 hours' sol. conf. with bread and water.

26 March 1838—idleness—48 hours' s.c. on bread and water.

30 May 1838—being in Mr Lempriere's yard without authority—1 month in chain gang.

30 October 1838—[Oatlands] absconding—12 months' hard labour in chains, Bridgewater, and to be reported to Lt. Governor.

25 January 1839—absconding—existing sentence to be extended 2 years and recommended to be removed to Port Arthur.

6 August 1839—absent from work without leave—25 stripes.

28 August 1839—neglect of duty in not attending for medical treatment at the proper time—36 stripes.

[Lapse of 2½ years—possibly gap in record. 4 March 1842—assault on Medical Officer with knife—sentenced to death by hanging.] Executed 12 September 1842.

Brownell's account

He visited the prisoner in the cells, with the Dispenser and a Warder: The man had said that he wished me to examine his eyes. He came out into the passage, and I went up to him to examine him. I was turning to go out, when he made a plunge at my neck with a knife. We were all on our guard, as there was something suspicious about his bearing. The Warder struck his arm and the knife glanced along skin-deep only, making a perpendicular incision little more than an inch long. The man was immediately secured and handcuffed, and was taken up to Hobart, sentenced to death and hanged.

Dr Brownell's journal

16th 1853
Port Arthur

To Dear mum and Dad

I am still in prison. I am get out today I picked a pocket and I got caught. I went back to prison and they put me up in front of the judge I am going to get hanged and you will not see me again.

Signed Ben Holl

LOOKING FURTHER: Eyewitness 3 is about murders committed at Port Arthur, and punishment is dealt with in **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5**. Brownell is the subject of **Profile 24**.

PROFILE



Captain James Purslowe *Administrator*

Captain James Purslowe was an officer of the 96th Regiment of Foot when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land with his regiment in 1840. He soon acquired a liking for administering convicts, and in 1842 was appointed superintendent of convicts at Bridgewater. In 1843 he was sent to the probation station at Impression Bay as superintendent, and from there he went to the Coal Mines.

While on Tasman Peninsula, Purslowe earned a reputation among convicts and others as a reformer and a sympathetic and enlightened administrator. Unlike others of his time, he saw convicts as individuals deserving the same basic human rights as free people.

Some people, however, saw him as soft and incompetent. The visiting magistrate during Purslowe's time at Impression Bay (Major Mainwaring) was particularly hostile, mainly over differences of opinion with Purslowe about religion: Purslowe felt that Roman Catholic prisoners had a right to worship separately from Protestants, while Mainwaring insisted that they receive instruction from the Protestant catechist.

Because of his dispute with Mainwaring, Purslowe was dismissed from his position as superintendent in 1844. He sought to have his reputation restored, and was finally offered another similar position, which he refused.



A convict's opinion

Mr Purslowe was a reformer . . . He allowed the men to walk in irons rather than run for loads, and to write to friends outside, and to organise themselves into trade groups, and to worship in proper denominations, and to lighten chains . . .

William Derricourt, 1842-43

Purslowe on religious dispute

I allowed the Catholics to assemble in the mess house, under an overseer, who read prayers to them. There was no place for worship, and the rest of the gang attended divine service in the open air. Although there was no Catholic minister on the whole of Tasman's Peninsula, I found the separation of the bodies attended with much benefit. They were more quiet, orderly and apparently more religious under the overseer than the rest of the gang under the [Protestant] catechist's instructions.

Purslowe, 1844

The catechist's view

[While about to perform divine service,] I perceived by accident, several men leave the gang at muster for prayers, and proceed to the mess-room, while the rest of the men were assembled in the third class yard . . . I [later] spoke to the Superintendent [Purslowe, who said] he thought it right to allow every prisoner to act in these matters as he thought proper, and that it had been his custom to permit those of the Roman Catholic persuasion to have services performed in their own manner, and that by one of his overseers; when he had not had an officer of that persuasion able to read, he allowed one of the prisoners to act, and sent an officer to keep order.

Protestant catechist, 1843

Purslowe on religious instructors

This same catechist always visited the station with a pair of loaded pistols in his pocket, a precaution more likely perhaps to excite ridicule than respect; the circumstance was well known to the men, by whom he was called 'the district constable'. Upon one occasion he apprehended a man, against whom there was no charge, and brought him to the office in front of his pistols, threatening to blow his brains out if he attempted to escape . . . Religious performances, so far as my experience extended, have not been calculated to reform, but rather to excite ridicule. I have never, with . . . one exception . . . witnessed that personal zeal, application, and perseverance on the part of ministers of religion, which alone can ensure even partial success to their spiritual duties.

Purslowe, 1844

LOOKING FURTHER: Background 4 contains an outline of the probation system on the Peninsula (which included the Impression Bay settlement) during Purslowe's time. Eyewitness 12 deals with the Coal Mines. Purslowe's religious problems can be put in context by reading Background 6, Eyewitness 8 and Profiles 20 and 33. Purslowe was known by William Derricourt (Profile 11) and John Frost (Profile 30).

PROFILE



Martin Cash

Convict bushranger

Description

Trade	Labourer
Height	5 ft 9 3/4 in
Age (1840)	30 years
Complexion	Florid
Head	Small, round
Hair	Curly, carrot
Visage	Small
Forehead	Low
Eyebrows	Red
Eyes	Small blue
Nose	Small
Mouth	Large
Chin	Small
Remarks	Small crucifix inside right arm. Cut on thumb of left hand. Long feet. Large scar over right temple, large scar top head. Athletic stout-made man, breast very much freckled.

Martin Cash was born at Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland, in 1808 or 1810, the son of George and Margaret Cash. He was a farm labourer when in March 1827 he was convicted of housebreaking. He claimed in his own story that he shot a man named Jessop in the rump while Jessop was embracing Cash's girl-friend (the bullet went through a window; hence the housebreaking charge). Cash was convicted and transported to Sydney.

He worked in the Hunter River valley, north of Sydney, as a stock-rider for several years, receiving a ticket-of-leave in the process. In 1837, having become a fugitive for cattle-duffing, he moved with Bessie Clifford to Van Diemen's Land, arriving in February 1837. He was convicted of having stolen household items at Campbell Town in 1840 (he claimed a man named Miller was the real culprit) and was sentenced to seven years' hard labour. He escaped twice in three years and was finally sent to Port Arthur by Magistrate John Price in 1842. In his own account, Cash said that in the Hobart Town Prisoners' Barracks (known as the Tench) he had to sell his boots for bread.

Late in 1842, Cash attempted to escape from the Peninsula and very nearly succeeded. He was caught near East Bay Neck (now Dunalley). Almost immediately he tried again, this time with two others (Lawrence Kavanagh and George Jones) and was successful. The trio roamed rural Van Diemen's Land for about six months, robbing houses and inns without using unnecessary violence: they thus became known as 'gentlemen bushrangers'.

Shortly after Kavanagh, who had been wounded, had given himself up, Cash went to Hobart Town in June 1843 to try to contact Bessie Clifford. The police were on the alert, however, and after a dramatic chase through Hobart streets, Cash was arrested. He was tried and convicted for the murder of one of his pursuers and was sentenced to death. But he was reprieved at the last minute after a colonists' petition in his defence was presented to the Governor. Finally, late in 1844, Cash was sent to Norfolk Island on a sentence of life transportation. There he again joined Kavanagh. (Jones had meanwhile been hanged in Van Diemen's Land).

Cash survived the brutal Norfolk Island penal system by submitting to authority and avoiding conflict as far as possible. Kavanagh was not so submissive and was executed there after being accused of involvement in a rebellion.

Cash married Mary Bennett on Norfolk Island in 1854 and with her returned to Tasmania on a ticket-of-leave soon afterwards. Ironically, he went back to Tasman Peninsula, this time as a constable at Cascades Probation Station (now called Koonja). He was also overseer of the Hobart Domain gardens before receiving a conditional pardon and

moving to New Zealand in 1856. He returned to Tasmania in 1860, bought an orcharding property at Berriedale and settled down there. He and Mary had one son, Martin, who was born in 1855 but who died in 1871.

Cash died in 1877, well liked by his community. His wife survived him by two years.

Convict record

CASH, Martin: Tried Launceston March 1840—7 years' penal servitude. July 1840—extended 2 years. June 1842—extended 2 years.

July 1840—Larceny under £5 (2 charges)—transportation sentence extended 2 years with 12 months' hard labour and three months' chain gang then to Green Ponds (road work).

August 1840—misconduct—3 days' solitary confinement.

June 1842—absconding from Jerusalem chain gang (Colebrook)—transportation sentence extended 2 years and removal to Port Arthur for a long time, having been so long at large supposed to have committed numerous robberies. On probation at Port Arthur for 3 years, and then case not to be considered except on special authority.

17 December 1842—absconding—hard labour in chains.

26 December 1842—absconding.

June 1843—murder of Const. Peter Winstanley (while attempting to avoid recapture). Tried Hobart Town; sentenced death.

6 September 1843—sentence commuted to life, with 10 years' servitude at Norfolk Island.

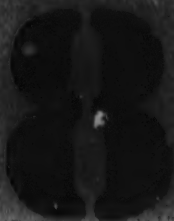
Conditional pardon June 1856; free pardon June 1863.

Inquest held on body at Glenorchy 28 September 1877. Verdict: died from Natural Causes, 14 September 1877.



LOOKING FURTHER: Escape is dealt with in **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9**, and in MacNamara's ballads (including the story of Cash's own escape) in **Eyewitness 10**. Stephens (**Profile 15**) was an overseer Cash came in contact with; others were MacNamara (**Profile 18**), Brownell (**Profile 24**) and Booth (**Profile 31**).

PROFILE



Thomas Boardman *Convict*

Nothing is known of Thomas Boardman's life before he was convicted in Sydney in July 1840 on a charge of forgery. He was then fifteen years old. He possibly was born in Sydney.

Boardman was sent to Van Diemen's Land on a life sentence, but was put to work on the roads on a year's probation. From then, for the rest of his short life, Boardman's record is one of absconding, misconduct, refusal to work and 'idleness'. The rate of the offences suggests an increasing resentment at the system that imprisoned him.

As a convict he became acquainted with a slightly older youth named **Henry Belfield**. Belfield came to believe that Boardman had betrayed him, and he developed a passionate hatred of him. This culminated in a savage assault on Boardman on 28 December 1841 while the two were at work in a carrying gang in the bush near Port Arthur. Boardman was found some days later in an appalling condition, having been beaten around the head by Belfield who had then reported him as missing—presumed absconded. Boardman was taken to the hospital, where he died on 2 January. Before he died, he identified Belfield as his attacker.

PENITENTIARY

The Penitentiary is the best of the old ruins at Port Arthur today. It was built by the convicts out of sandstone and brick. The massive structure had four floors and it accommodated 657 men. The Penitentiary was constructed in 1848 upon the plans of Port Arthurs fourth commandant Capt. O'hara Booth. The first two floors formed a double tier of cells, the next was used chiefly as a mess hall, and on top were dormitories for privileged men. Others slept in the cells on hammocks slung from hooks in the walls.



Convict record

BOARDMAN, Thomas: Transported from Sydney July 1840 for forgery; life sentence.

July 1840—on 12 months' probation on roads.

20 August 1840—absconding, Halfway Hill, 12 months' hard labour in chains.

5 October 1840—refusing to work, Oatlands, sentence extended 1 month.

9 October 1840—misconduct (fighting) at Oatlands, 4 days' sol. conf.

22 October 1840—disobedience of orders, Oatlands, 25 lashes.

23 January 1841—absconding, 6 months' hard labour with 30 days' sol. conf.

15 March 1841—absconding, 12 months' hard labour, 6 months in chains.

21 April 1841—refusing to work, 12 lashes.

30 April 1841—idleness, 7 days' sol. conf.

12 October 1841—misconduct, 3 days' sol. conf.

30 October 1841—misconduct, 7 days' sol. conf.

19 November 1841—absconding, 2 years' imprisonment and hard labour in chains at Port Arthur.

8 December 1841—idleness—acquitted.

Murdered at Port Arthur January 1842 by Henry Belfield who was executed for this offence.

LOOKING FURTHER: *Eyewitness 3* contains an account of the discovery of Boardman in the bush. **Profile 25** tells of Belfield's life.

PROFILE



Mrs Elizabeth Booth *Wife of Commandant*

Elizabeth Charlotte Eagle was born in Dublin in 1819, one of a family of two sons and three daughters of Edward Eagle, an attorney, and his wife Letitia. Her father died in the early 1820s and Elizabeth changed her surname to Pilkington when in 1829 Letitia married Dr Edward Pilkington, a surgeon in the 21st Regiment. Dr Pilkington, his wife and his adopted family moved to Van Diemen's Land in 1833 with his regiment (also the regiment of **Captain Charles O'Hara Booth**).

Elizabeth, known to her family and friends as 'Lizzy', was described by Thomas Lempriere in 1835 as 'the most perfect beauty I have ever seen—voice rather rough.' Her later portrait by Lempriere shows a blue-eyed, brown-haired young woman. She married Booth at St David's Church, Hobart Town, on 20 November 1838, and travelled to Port Arthur three weeks later. Booth had at that stage already spent five years at Port Arthur as commandant.

During their time at Port Arthur the Booths made many journeys to Hobart Town, and were frequent guests at social occasions there, including evenings at the Government House of Sir John and Lady Franklin, with whom they were close friends. While at Port Arthur they had a daughter, Amelia Patricia (born on 25 August 1839). They remained there until ill-health forced Booth to take a position in Hobart Town in 1844.

The family moved to a comfortable house in New Town, 'Stoke', overlooking Mount Wellington and a pleasant valley of field and wood. The Booths' second daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, was born there in 1845.

Booth died in 1851 and Mrs Booth decided soon after to return to England, having been left almost destitute. She sailed with her daughters early in 1852. She unsuccessfully sought a widow's pension from the British Army, but was able to earn a living as matron at boys' schools in Berkshire and Bath. She retired in 1865 from a position as matron of a girls' finishing school and went to live in a London villa. Her younger daughter died there of consumption in 1870, but she herself lived until 1903.

PAST PRESENT

Carroll Light
Lamp Room
Chest Box
Music Box
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box
Bedroom
Drawing Room

Electric Light
Electric Organ
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box
Lamp Room Box



A charming young lady

My host (Captain Booth) ushered me into a pretty, tastefully furnished drawing room, where a pile of albums, fashionable ornaments and thousands of those small, elegant knick-knacks revealed the presence of a young mistress of the house: in fact, very soon a charming young lady came in, one of those delightful, fair-complexioned women of which old England alone has the secret. After a very English dinner we went back into the drawing room, where souvenirs of all shapes and sizes were displayed on a table.

Captain Dumont D'Urville, visiting French explorer, 1840

An altered man

I have heard it said that Captain Booth was an altered man since his marriage and spent half the day on the sofa by the side of his young and pretty wife.

Journal of Lady Franklin

LOOKING FURTHER: Background 9 and Eyewitness 16 deal with 'private lives' at Port Arthur. Captain Booth's life is the subject of Profile 32; the Lempriere family, friends of the Booths, are dealt with in Profiles 3 and 23.

PROFILE

Private Robert Bayliss *Soldier*

Robert Bayliss was a private attached to the 51st Regiment (The Queen's Own Light Infantry) of the British Army, stationed at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, from 1838 to 1847. In the year of its arrival in Van Diemen's Land, detachments of the regiment were posted to Port Arthur and the Coal Mines on Tasman Peninsula.

Private Bayliss was on duty at the Coal Mines in July 1838, under the command of Lieutenant Andrews. Andrews was granted leave by **Commandant Booth** to go to Pittwater about 10 July, and Sergeant Turley was in charge when on 11 July the prisoner **James Hall** escaped from custody. Bayliss, later described as 'a stout, powerful-looking man, nearly six feet high', went in pursuit and captured Hall the following day. Turley instructed him to escort Hall the eighteen miles to Port Arthur for the hearing of the charge of absconding and the pair left on the morning of 13 July. Bayliss carried a rifle but no handcuffs, contrary to an alleged instruction by Booth three days earlier. Hall was in heavy irons, which made walking difficult, but his hands were free.

Darkness fell as the pair approached Port Arthur. As Bayliss later told the story, Hall refused to go further and then in the darkness appeared to attack him. Whatever the cause, Bayliss fired at the prisoner, who apparently died almost immediately.

Bayliss went to Port Arthur for help. The medical officer confirmed the death of Hall due to a bullet wound in his neck, and Bayliss was taken into custody and committed for trial for manslaughter after Booth, as coroner, found that Hall had died after being 'feloniously shot by Private Bayliss but without malice aforethought'. Bayliss was tried in Hobart Town before a judge and a military jury, which acquitted him of manslaughter and returned a verdict of 'justifiable homicide'. Judge Montagu recommended at the trial that soldiers in charge of prisoners should in the future always be accompanied by a constable.

Bayliss's origins are unknown but he probably hailed from Yorkshire, where his regiment was based. Assuming he stayed with his regiment, he left Van Diemen's Land in 1847, never to return.



Bayliss's story

I left the Mines yesterday morning about half past ten o'clock with a prisoner in my charge to escort him into [Port Arthur] . . . The prisoner came on quietly with me until . . . he requested to go into the military hut which [he] . . . stated was on the march. Being unacquainted where the hut was I objected to it. After going on a short distance the prisoner wished to stop again. I enquired of him if he was sick and urged him to come on to the settlement as it was not much further.

. . . continued

The prisoner then replied, 'Into the settlement he would not go.' We then proceeded some distance further. The prisoner asked me to go on in front, as he could not see the road . . . [This] I did not do, but as he said he was tired I stopped there for a few minutes. He would not go on then without some persuasion, when I told him if he did not proceed to the settlement I should be obliged to use other measures in making him. He went on again until he came to a sudden stand and made a bolt off the road among some old timber. I called out to him three or four times to come back when I observed him taking his pack off. At the same time the prisoner turned round sharply towards me when I fired at him . . . The prisoner fell.

On my going up to him after loading my piece I found he was not so far from me as I expected, the night being very dark. I found the prisoner had been shot but he did not speak to me after I fired at him. He was then lying on the ground . . .

I made a fire near him and laid a blanket over him to protect him from the weather, and lost no time in coming into the Settlement and reported the circumstances to the first person I met—one of the Watchmen of the Penitentiary Gate, and afterwards . . . to Sergeant Murdoch. The Sergeant afterwards took me to the Commandant's quarters, where I reported the same circumstances. After this I accompanied the Medical Officer to the spot where I had left the deceased . . .

The deceased never did me any injury, and I bore no malice to him. My motive in firing upon the deceased was for my own safety and his security. My impression at the time I fired was that the deceased was making a rush towards me from the noise of the breaking of the scrub that was under his feet. I had no desire whatever to take the man's life but had it been daylight I am led to believe it would not have happened.

Written statement to Booth, July 1838

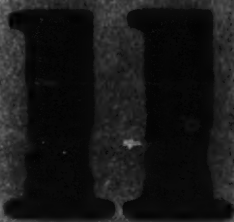
March 20th
1830
Port Arthur

Dear mum and dad

How are you. I am doing very well and I have had to flog lots of convicts. Most convicts have come here because they murdered people. One of the convicts escaped and stole one of our horses. We had to flog Ned Kelly and his gang. One of the convicts got a job at a farm. I am now at Port Arthur. It is very nice but it is not when the convicts get in the way. We got a convict yesterday he had to come to prison for stealing six horses and murdering two people.

LOOKING FURTHER: James Hall is the subject of **Profile 4**. Bayliss's life can be put into a broader perspective by reading **Eyewitness 17** and **Profile 34**. The life of Captain Booth is told in **Profile 31**.

PROFILE



William Derricourt *Convict*

The story of William Derricourt is retold in a book written early this century by Louis Becke, who apparently interviewed an old convict some time earlier. We do not know whether Derricourt was his real name; no Derricourt has been found in convict records. However, as Derricourt says in the book, it was common to regularly change names to avoid detection by the law, and he himself did so several times.

Derricourt, as we shall call him, was born on 5 May 1819 at Darlaston near Birmingham. According to his story, he suffered imprisonment at a very early age, being locked in a schoolroom as punishment for a small misdemeanour and escaping via the chimney, only to fall into the schoolmistress's garden.

He was apprenticed to a gunsmith who was addicted to the sports of bulldog-fighting and cock-fighting (common in the early 19th century—men would bet money on the outcome). Derricourt also became interested in these sports. He also developed a liking for boxing (bare-knuckle: there were no boxing gloves then), and occasionally became involved in local gang brawls which sometimes resulted in fatal injuries (although he himself, he says, never took a life).

His first brush with the law happened when, still an apprentice, he was gaoled for a month in Stafford Gaol for absconding from his master. He continued his apprenticeship, but again absconded when threatened with arrest for his part in a fatal boxing match (he was the winning boxer's second, or assistant). He took up with a peddler and on that man's sudden death he, having responsibility for the business's cash, was left with enough money to live comfortably.

He claims to have saved two people from drowning at Oxford before he was accused—Derricourt says unjustly—of knowingly selling a stolen waistcoat. For this crime he was punished with ten years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land. At Woolwich hulks, where he was imprisoned before leaving England, he was scrubbed 'till the blood was drawn', his hair was shorn, and he was placed in twelve-pound leg irons—the standard treatment. He left England in 1840 on the *Asia*.

On arrival in Hobart Town he and his fellow convicts were addressed by the Governor, Sir John Franklin (who admonished them for their wicked ways). Derricourt was then put to work in a quarrying gang on Sandy Bay Road. He attempted to escape several times and was finally sent to Port Arthur by the 'hanging magistrate', John Price, early in 1841.

Derricourt tried escaping once from Port Arthur, but without success. He was then sent to Saltwater River to help establish the new probation station there, and finally to the Coal Mines. His several attempts at



escape by land and sea were thwarted and he had to serve his time before being released on a ticket-of-leave several years later. He left Van Diemen's Land soon after his release in about 1850, never to return, and lived out his days in New South Wales.

LOOKING FURTHER: **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9** tell of escape attempts; Derricourt's experiences at the Coal Mines can be enlarged upon by reading **Eyewitness 12**. Derricourt was involved as an onlooker with the religious dispute outlined in **Eyewitness 8** and **Profile 33**.

PROFILE

12

George Ives *Free settler and convict*

In the early 1830s George Ives was a free settler in Van Diemen's Land, struggling to earn a living on the land. Nothing is known of his previous life, but he arrived in Hobart Town on the *Chatham* under one of the settlement schemes of Governors Sorell or Arthur.

In February 1836 Ives was tried and found guilty on a charge of cattle-stealing and was sentenced to be transported to Port Arthur. His record from then until his final release shows the usual string of minor offences against regulations—a typical story for prisoners whose every move was subject to careful scrutiny. He may have been at Port Arthur for as many as four years; in 1840 he was in Hobart and in 1841 was working in Westbury. He was released on 2 February 1843.

Convict record

IVES, George: Free settler. Tried Hobart Supreme Court; 2 February 1836. Transported for cattle stealing.

8 September 1836—making away with hemp issued to him—3 days' sol. conf., Port Arthur.

10 October 1837—having articles improperly in possession and resisting being searched—3 weeks' s.c.

30 March 1840—absent without leave, 6 days in cells.

19 May 1840—absent for 1 day without leave—4 days in cells, bread and water.

26 June 1840—disobedience of orders, 14 days cells and bread and water.

14 September 1840—misconduct and insolence—25 lashes.

2 December 1840 (Hobart Town)—on Regatta Ground contrary to orders—3 days s.c.

8 December 1840—disorderly conduct, 30 lashes.

4 March 1841—out after hours, 14 days s.c.

26 April 1841—misconduct, abusing and insulting a woman, 10 days s.c.

7 July 1841—misconduct and threatening to assault his master, 12 months' hard labour in chains and to be assigned to the Interior (Westbury).

Free by servitude 2 February 1843

16th 1853
Port Arthur

To Dear mum
and dad I am
out of Prison but last
night I got caught
stealing a horse I am
going to court to morrow
I hope that I will get
out the other reason I am
in court because I shot
in the officers face.



LOOKING FURTHER: Henry Savery (Profile 2) is another example of a man who 'came down in the world' through being convicted. Compare Ives' and Savery's lives as prisoners with those of Frost (Profile 30) and O'Brien (Profile 35).

PROFILE

13

David Hoy Shipwright

David Hoy arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a free settler in 1824, aboard the *Phoenix*. He was then 37 years old and a shipwright by trade. He was born in Scotland and was an illegitimate child. He received his early training in the Navy and records suggest that he served in the United States in the war with Britain, 1812-1815. When he emigrated he carried £500—a lot of money at that time.

Until 1827, David Hoy was in private employment as a shipwright and boat-builder. He supervised construction of the vessel *Apollo* in this period; shortly after it was launched it foundered and sank off Maria Island and Hoy was accused of having improperly caulked its timbers. Hoy denied this and said the ship had foundered because of poor seamanship in heavy seas. During this time he lived in Hobart Town.

In 1827 he was appointed Shipwright at the West Coast penal settlement of Sarah Island (Macquarie Harbour). He was responsible for the design and construction of many vessels in the five years he spent there. The most famous of these was the ship *Frederick*, which was seized by convicts who had been left behind with Hoy and a small contingent of guards and seamen to finish the ship's construction, after the settlement had been closed in 1833. Hoy and other civil and military officers, with the ship's captain-to-be, were left ashore at Macquarie Harbour while the mutineers took the ship to South America. (Some died, some were recaptured and some remained at large.)

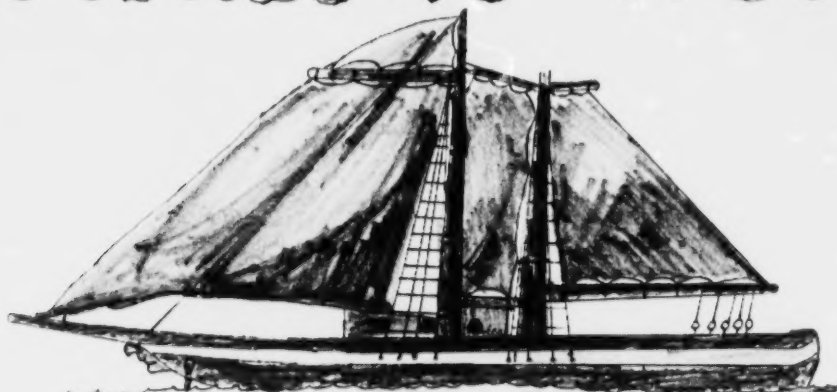
Hoy and the other stranded men battled their way northward up the wild West Coast, crossing the harbour at Hell's Gates, as well as the Pieman and Arthur rivers, before making contact with Van Diemen's Land Company settlers in the far North-West. During the arduous trek, Hoy suffered a hip injury that plagued him the rest of his life. He later made a claim for losses incurred in the *Frederick's* seizure, including a very extensive wardrobe of fine clothes such as silk waistcoats and 'superfine jackets'.

Hoy remained a bachelor until 1838, when he married a widow, Janet Miller, thereby acquiring a step-daughter, Isabella. By this time Hoy had arrived at Port Arthur, having been appointed Master Shipwright to succeed John Watson in June 1836. He had previously supervised erection of a lighthouse at Cape Bruny.

Hoy spent twelve years at Port Arthur, first as Master Shipwright, then (on half-pay) as Dockyard Supervisor. His full pay was restored in 1845 and he finally left when the dockyard closed in 1848. In his time there, he designed and supervised construction of a number of large vessels, including the barque *Lady Franklin* (later renamed *Emily Downing*), the schooner *Eleanor* and the paddle-steamer *Derwent*. He was well liked; although Booth had little to do with him socially, he referred affectionately to him in his journal as 'Old Hoey'.

When Hoy left he was sixty-one years old and Janet was fifty-five. She died three years later, but Hoy lived on in Hobart until 1857, when he died at the age of seventy. Both he and Janet were buried in Trinity Church Cemetery, where Campbell Street School now stands. At his death he was quite well off, leaving an estate valued at £4000.

BUILDING SHIPS



This is probably the kind of ship that they built at Port Arthur. The ship yard is about 1km northeast from Port Arthur. The first ship was started in the 1830s

LOOKING FURTHER: Other 'second-rank' senior officials included Cart (Profile 16) and Newman (Profile 27). Booth's story is told in Profile 31. Eyewitness 1 outlines the operation of the dockyard.

PROFILE

14

Linus Miller *Political prisoner*

In the late 1830s the British colonies in eastern Canada were experiencing political unrest, stirred on by people seeking to oust the British from North America. Their efforts failed, and one of the victims was Linus W. Miller.

Miller was a twenty-year-old lawyer from New York when in 1838 he decided to join the Canadian rebels. In the story he later told, he claims to have prevented a rebel leader from plundering property and hanging prisoners: 'The Patriots of Canada,' he said, 'are neither robbers nor murderers, but actuated by . . . noble purposes.' But he was captured near Niagara Falls, a lonely fugitive, without firing a shot for the Rebellion, and the uprising was quickly put down by a well-organised, well-informed British militia.

While awaiting trial, Miller and his fellow prisoners were visited by Sir George Arthur, Governor of Upper Canada, who two years previously had been Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land. He told the rebels to pray to Heaven, as their time on earth was short. Miller judged him to be persevering, decisive and determined.

The court, having found the ringleaders guilty, sentenced them to be hanged, including Col. James Morrow, Miller's friend. Miller used his knowledge of law and court procedure to escape the noose and after long legal debate in both Canada and England was shipped out of Portsmouth in the *Canton* on 22 September 1839, arriving as a convict in Van Diemen's Land on 12 January 1840. Altogether ninety-one Canadian rebels were transported to the island prison.

On arrival at the Hobart Town Prisoners' Barracks, Miller was addressed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Franklin—'an imbecile old man . . . with an excellent opinion of himself, and little wit . . .' He was soon after sent to work in gangs with other convicts on roads and other public works, despite the plea of the rebels that they were not to be treated as 'degraded men'.

Miller tried to escape the island colony by sea in 1842 but gave himself up after twelve days at large (the ship he'd planned to escape in failed to arrive at the planned time). With fellow Canadian Joseph Stewart, Miller was sent to Port Arthur, considered a harsh penalty for a first offence.

He arrived at Port Arthur on 22 October 1842 and was forced to work in the timber-carrying gang until, his health nearly broken, he was allowed by **Superintendent Cart** to transfer to gardening and then laundering. He was soon appointed clerk to **Rev. John Allen Manton** and later tutor to the children of **Thomas and Charlotte Lempriere**. He was well liked by both Manton and Lempriere.

After receiving a free pardon, Miller finally left Van Diemen's Land in September 1845, never to return. He lived the rest of his life in New York.

Convict record

MILLER, Linus Wilson: Transported for High Treason, *Canton*. Tried Upper Canada 18 July 1838; life.

Hulk report: Good. Single.

Surgeon's report: well-conducted, quiet young man.

16 September 1840—absconding, 2 years' hard labour out of chains.

Ticket-of-leave 17 November 1843.

Free pardon 29 January 1845.

LOOKING FURTHER: Other political prisoners are John Frost (**Profile 30**) and William Smith O'Brien (**Profile 35**). Check **Eyewitness 18** for details of O'Brien's life at Port Arthur. Miller's contact with officials can be explored through **Profiles 3** and **23** (the Lemprières) and **Profiles 20** (Rev. Manton). William Cart's life is outlined in **Profile 16**.



Benjamin Stephens *Convict overseer*

Convict department indent

Name	STEPHENS, Benjamin (Woodford 2, arr. 25 August 1828)
Height	5ft 5in
Age	18
Trade	Bricklayer and labourer
Where tried	Lancaster Quarter Sessions
When tried	21 January 1828
Sentence	14 years
Native place	Shropshire
Married or single	Single
Children	—
Religion	Prot.
Offence	Housebreaking
Remarks	Stealing 1 pr trousers 14 days . . . Stealing on board the ship 18 lashes

Benjamin Stephens was a seventeen-year-old apprentice bricklayer and labourer when he was tried and convicted of housebreaking at Lancaster Quarter Sessions, England, on 21 January 1828. His record describes him as 5ft 5in tall, single, Protestant, born in Shropshire. His sentence was fourteen years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

Records do not reveal how Stephens came to be sent to Port Arthur, but it was likely to have been for absconding from a work gang. On 31 August 1833, Stephens and fellow prisoner Edward Knowles escaped from Port Arthur. They remained at large until 8 September when, with Thomas Walker, who had broken out the night before they did, they were recaptured at Eaglehawk Neck. Stephens received seventy-five lashes for the offence.

Nineteen months later Stephens again made an attempt to escape, this time with **Edward Howard**, Joseph Dyke, John Mitford and Robert Williamson. The break was short-lived; Stephens was arrested not far from Port Arthur after a struggle with a soldier who, according to **Commandant Booth**, had been hit on the head with a hammer with which Stephens was armed.

In 1841 Stephens, then breaking stones, was praised by a judge for helping to subdue **Patrick Minahan** when he attacked **James Travers**. By avoiding further trouble he was made a timber gang overseer. As a convict under his control, **Martin Cash** found him to be a man 'whose reputation for cruelty and oppression had no parallel'. Stephens, Cash claimed, was in the habit of intimidating prisoners who possessed anything that he wanted for himself and he acquired the help of other prisoners in running a large extortion network. According to Cash, 'Stephens was a fair specimen of about twenty others in whom the same authority was invested.'

Stephens's later career is not recorded.

Cash's story

The plan adopted by Stephens . . . when new hands arrived, in order to break them in, as he termed it, was to place men whom he patronised . . . in front of the gang; these men were well acquainted with the work, and having a good understanding with Stephens they would run the remainder of the gang, the object Stephens had in view being simply to extort money, braces or whatever else he could get from the new arrivals. In this he was assisted by his runners . . . and should a fancy pair of braces attract their attention, woe betide the proprietor if he did not give them up on receiving a hint . . . These men . . . were not dependent upon their ordinary ration, as their participation in the perquisites received . . . from the new arrivals enabled them to fare abundantly . . .

[On my fourth day in the gang] one of the prisoners . . . named John Thompson, a tailor by trade and who appeared to be a sickly, attenuated looking man, remained a little in the rear of our party, being evidently unable to keep up with us, and as Stephens heard that 'he held it' [a slang phrase implying the possession of money] and would not 'tip up', he resolved to take it out of him in another way . . . He laid hold of Thompson and, pushing him on before him for a few paces, then gave him a kick which sent him to the ground, and while down he again kicked him several times. On getting up, Thompson was marched in rear of the gang to Port Arthur, and being charged by Stephens with refusing to work, he on the same day received twenty lashes.

Martin Cash, 1842

A desperate effort

Most of the party who escaped were determined characters—Benjamin Stephens, the first who was apprehended [yesterday] made a desperate effort on the life of one of the Military, by striking him on the head with a Hammer—the Soldier acted in a most manly manner on the occasion in not making use of Arms and feeling that the prisoner was safely in his custody without resorting to those means—I merely state this circumstance to assure His Excellency that on no occasion are extreme measures adopted unless peremptorily called for.

Booth's report to Colonial Secretary, 28 March 1835



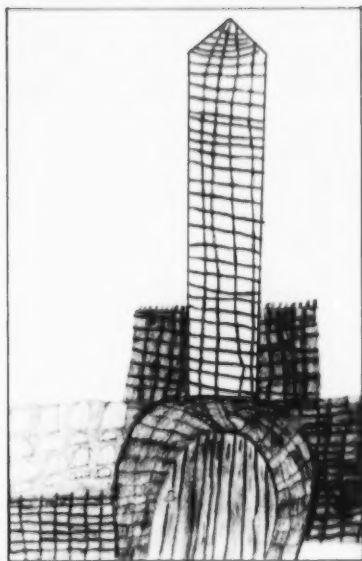
LOOKING FURTHER: For an outline of the official administrative organisation and methods, see **Background 4** and **Eyewitness 14**. Martin Cash's life is outlined in **Profile 7**. Minahan is the subject of **Profile 29**, Travers of **Profile 1**, Howard of **Profile 17** and Booth of **Profile 31**.



William Cart *Superintendent*

William Cart was born in Ireland about 1785, and spent the early years of his life in Limerick. He emigrated with his wife and children, seeking a land grant in Van Diemen's Land, and arrived in Hobart Town in August 1832.

New land regulations had just been brought in, however, and Cart failed in his efforts to settle on the land. He was appointed Principal Superintendent of Convicts and Director of Public Works at the newly established Port Arthur in January 1833, having been recommended to Governor Arthur as a man 'of limited means, but upright and industrious'. Although he was criticised at first for his lack of administrative skills, his hard work and ability to earn the convicts' respect secured his position at Port Arthur.



In 1838 his baby son, Edward, died as a result of medical negligence, an event which may have persuaded another son, Robert, to become a doctor after spending some years as a copying clerk in his father's department at Port Arthur. In the same year Cart applied, without success, for a similar position elsewhere in the colony.

He stayed at Port Arthur another ten years. In 1848 Governor William Denison's administration began to reorganise the convict administration on Tasman Peninsula. The office of Commandant was to be abolished and replaced with an upgraded Superintendent's position. Cart, according to the Comptroller-General of Convicts, Dr John Hampton, had 'acquired habits of routine . . . altogether disqualifying him from acting in the comparatively independent position, in which it is now considered to place his successor . . . There are . . . other grounds of objection to Mr Cart's continuance in his present office . . . [which] fully warrant the discontinuance of his services. The chief of these are, that he is an uneducated man, and does not possess the intelligence, address, or manner, necessary to secure an influence over Convicts; and that he also uses strong and improper language to the prisoners under his charge.'

Dismissed from his position, Cart with his wife and six children left Port Arthur in 1848 and returned to Britain, angry about his treatment by the authorities. According to Rev. Henry Fry, who visited Port Arthur in 1848, Cart had shown 'zeal, activity and good management' in his fifteen years as Superintendent, but had not been properly rewarded with a retirement allowance or compensation, and had not been given the support he should have had in his work. Fry's report apparently had its effect, as Cart finally received a pension. He did not return to Van Diemen's Land.

Some incidents involving Booth

16 May 1833—In the course of the evening Cart . . . came up to report several Brick bats had been thrown at his head and knocked him down, by the Prisoners, immediately after the evening muster. *Shortly before, Macquarie Harbour prisoners 'of desperate character' had arrived at Port Arthur.*

18 May 1833—This Evening Mr Cart reported the Prisoners would not obey his orders—put on my annihilating countenance—went down to them 375 in number raised my stentorian voice and made them quake . . . anticipate a row—such a set of Villains here . . .

Journal of Captain Booth

A convict's opinion

Cart agreed to Linus Miller's request to be removed from the timber-carrying 'centipede' and given a separate load. He said: 'I am a tall man myself, and shouldn't like the end of one of those d—d great logs on my shoulder with a dozen or two of them crawlers behind me, singing out "Stand up, you long . . ."'

He [Cart] was an Irishman and, I am happy to say, much more humane than many of his countrymen . . . in Van Diemen's Land. He was a tall, rough, raw-looking fellow and would swear most unmercifully.

Linus Miller

LOOKING FURTHER: Background 4 and Eyewitness 14 have further details about the way convicts were managed, while Profile 15 contains an account of 'unofficial' methods. The death of Cart's son is referred to in Eyewitness 13. Booth's story is told in Profile 31, and Miller's in Profile 14.



Edward Howard Convict

Edward Howard arrived in Hobart Town on 9 November 1828 aboard the *Manlius* out of London. His life before then is unknown; nor is it known why he was sent to Port Arthur, from which he absconded in October 1834 with another prisoner, John Mitford. Their escape was reported to **Commandant Booth** in the evening of 28 October. By 31 October, three days after their escape, Booth was 'rather apprehensive about the Runaways', and the next day his fears were proved correct when they were reported as having been sighted at Bream Creek, having already evaded two guard posts, at Eaglehawk Neck and East Bay Neck (Dunalley).

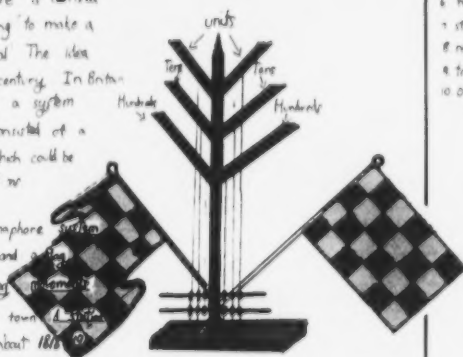
On 2 November Booth went to McGennis's Farm at Bream Creek and later recorded: 'It appears that the two men came there in the middle of the day on Thursday in their shirts only, and represented themselves as wrecked whalers, however after some little questioning, together with it being observed that letters had been endeavoured to be obliterated on their Shirts and their close cut Hair, suspicion arose as to whom they really were . . . Night came on and all went to rest (including the runaways) . . . The two men were not forthcoming in the morning, nor did any one hear them depart.'

Howard and Mitford were captured at Sorell not long after they left the farm and returned to Port Arthur for a flogging and an extension to their sentences.

SEMAPHORE

ORIGINS The word "Semaphore" is derived from two Greek words meaning 'to make a sign' and 'to display a signal'. The idea dated from the late 18th century. In Britain, Rev. Lord George Murray devised a system which, when first used in 1795, consisted of a screen containing six shutters which could be operated to give many combinations.

Less than 20 years later a semaphore system was operating in Van Diemen's Land, a flag arrangement which signalled shipping movements from Mount Nelson to Hobart town, and was built at Battery Point about 1816.



SEMAPHORE CODE

SEMAPHORE CODE	SYMBOL	PRIMARY USE
1 convict	1 ready	21 unkind
2 escaped/absconded	22 to	22 church
3 attacking	23 to	23 narrow
4 arriving	24 by	24 in
5 heading	25 first	25 Military
6 towards	26 goods	26 sent
7 stolen	27 supplier	27 Men
8 needed	28 prison	28 rack
9 trouble	29 fine	29 pentenary
10 once	30 ship	30 hospital
	31 a grand	31 commandant
		32 quarters
		33 Reply

Points To Remember

- There is to be a thirty second interval between each number.
- After each number all arms are dropped before a new number is put up.
- Two flags will be used if 'message is understood'.
- One flag will be used if 'message is unclear'.
- IMMEDIATE - the ten arm is always erected first - then the units.
- Always face the front of the semaphore!

By Nino

Less than five months later Howard tried again, this time with four companions: Joseph Dyke, **Benjamin Stephens** and Robert Williamson, as well as John Mitford. Stephens was the first to be captured, and the others were taken into custody near Norfolk Bay while trying to make a canoe to paddle across to Forestier Peninsula.

This time Howard was unlucky enough to be shot by Sergeant Murphy of the 21st Fusiliers—according to Murphy, Howard was attempting to avoid capture. The bullet shattered the bone in Howard's upper left arm and on the party's return to Port Arthur the medical officer decided on amputation—a difficult operation at that time, especially as the Settlement had no painkilling drugs. Howard, however, survived the operation and told Booth afterwards (Booth had witnessed the amputation) that he wanted to see him the next day.

Booth, who had recorded in his diary that he felt the loss of his arm would teach Howard a lesson—'nothing but the severest measures can operate on the Minds of these men with good effect'—saw Howard later, who said he regretted his past misconduct and gave information on the methods adopted in the escape. 'I feel little doubt that this lesson will be the means of retrieving Howard,' said Booth. Whether or not he was right, we do not know. The record of Howard's later career has not been uncovered.

LOOKING FURTHER: **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9** provide a general perspective on escape attempts. **Background 10** contains Booth's account of Howard's operation and, with **Eyewitness 13**, tells of medical techniques and problems. **Profile 24** is about a medical officer (not Cornelius Casey, who amputated Howard's arm). Booth's life is outlined in **Profile 31**, and Stephen's in **Profile 15**.

PROFILE

183

Francis MacNamara

Convict poet

Francis MacNamara was born in Ireland in 1811, which made him about the same age as **Martin Cash**, whom he later met at Port Arthur.

As a youth, MacNamara was involved in the struggle for Catholic freedom and was probably a member of one of the many anti-Protestant, anti-British 'Ribbon' secret societies. These organisations resisted the payment to Protestant churches of tithes (a tax on income, paid to a church).

In 1832, aged 21, MacNamara was found guilty at Kilkenny City on a charge of stealing a plaid, or scarf, and was sentenced to seven years' transportation. He sailed from Cork for Sydney aboard the *Eliza* on 10 May 1831.

On arrival, he was assigned as a servant to a Sydney businessman named John Jones, but within three months he was sentenced to six months' labour in irons at Goat Island (in Sydney Harbour). On completion of his sentence he was returned to the notorious Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street (now restored as a museum), where over the next eight years he received a total of 650 lashes in fourteen separate 'doses'. As well, he served three and a half years in chain gangs at roads and quarries, thirteen days in solitary confinement and three months at the Carter's Barracks treadmill.

During this time MacNamara's talents as a song-writer grew. He wrote the now famous Australian song 'Moreton Bay' at this time, in which he incorporated many of his feelings about the hated convict system:

For three long years I was beastly treated,
And heavy irons on my legs I wore;
My back with flogging is lacerated
And often painted with my crimson gore.

He was also sentenced to ten days' solitary confinement for drunkenness while on the hulk *Phoenix* at Sydney. Asked whether he had anything to say, he replied:

Captain Murray, if you please,
Make it hours instead of days;
You know, it becomes an Irishman
To drown the shamrock when he can.

Captain Murray refused to reduce the sentence.

MacNamara was eventually put to work as a shepherd on a big property inland from the Great Dividing Range, a life he found enjoyable. But his comfort was short-lived: he was soon required to labour in newly opened coal mines at Newcastle. He refused to work there in the punishing conditions, and absconded to the bush, only to face another

twelve months in irons. While serving this sentence he escaped yet again, this time by plying his guards with rum during a break in his gang's labours on the road near Berrima. He and four companions took the soldiers' rifles and headed off, only to be recaptured two days later because they did not have the good sense to avoid the road. For their sins they were sentenced to ten years' transportation to Port Arthur (later reduced to seven years).

Frank MacNamara arrived in Van Diemen's Land in mid-1842 aboard the *Waterlily*. He served his time at Port Arthur quietly, being punished only once while there (sentenced to seven days' solitary confinement for disobedience of orders). At Port Arthur, he met John 'Red' Kelly, father of bushranger Ned. He also made the acquaintance of **Martin Cash**, whose escape from Port Arthur he later celebrated in his 'Ballad of Martin Cash (or) The Sprig of Shamrock'. He also wrote a ballad in commemoration of the deeds of **William Swallow** (who had died at Port Arthur eight years earlier) and his fellow *Cyprus* mutineers. Cash later described the manner in which prisoners were allowed to celebrate Christmas in 1842, with 'Frank the Poet', as MacNamara was known, 'throwing off' a few verses, 'at the same time giving his coat of arms . . . "My name is Frank MacNamara a native of Cashell, County Tipperary, sworn to be a tyrant's foe, and while I live I'll crow".'

MacNamara's good behaviour at Port Arthur brought about a shortening of his sentence. He finally left Van Diemen's Land late in the 1840s, never to return.

LOOKING FURTHER: A number of MacNamara's songs and poems are recorded on a cassette tape available at the Port Arthur Education Centre and the words for some of these are included in **Eyewitness 10**. The stories of Martin Cash and William Swallow, heroes of two of MacNamara's songs, are told in **Profile 7** and **Profile 22**.



Samuel African Negro convict

Description: convict department indent

Name	SAMUEL (no surname)
Height	5ft 5½in
Age (1831)	28
Trade	Labourer
Where tried	Cape of Good Hope
When tried	6 April 1831
Sentence	Life
Native place	Mozambique
Offence	Stealing money

'Samuel' had no other name to the convict authorities. He was a black man, a native of Mozambique in south-eastern Africa, who was kidnapped with his mother and sisters as a child and taken to the Cape of Good Hope, a British colony, about 1810. According to a later report in the *Hobart Town Courier*, 'his constant repetition of offences from small to great at that place, subjected him to transportation . . .'

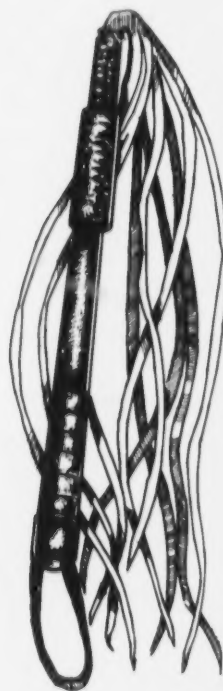
On 6 April 1831, at the Cape of Good Hope, the court in its wisdom sentenced Samuel to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land for 'stealing money' (the amount is unknown). Samuel, then 28, faced life-long exile in an alien land among alien people. He arrived in Hobart Town aboard the ship *William Glen Anderson* in mid-1831 and was sent to work in a chain gang.

Within two years he had absconded three times and broken his irons once. On 15 November 1833 he was sentenced to three years' hard labour at Port Arthur for insubordination to a supervising officer. He refused to submit to the system. Early in January 1834, he was involved in a scheme to distribute wine stolen from a shipment for the Commandant, **Captain Booth** for which he received 75 lashes. A month later he absconded and, according to Booth, was 'taken in the act of robbing the Gardens' to obtain food.

The following day Samuel was sentenced to 75 lashes for his attempted escape. Booth takes up the story: '... on his sentence being passed he made a rush at the Chief Constable (**Richard Newman**) and stabbed him in the face—the night before he declared he would have my life if I sentenced him to corporal punishment—and on my demanding him to "plead Guilty or not Guilty" he said that he would do no good here—he would do Murder—inflicted his punishment (75 lashes) which he resisted most violently—and afterwards took Mr Newman's information ... preparatory to his [Samuel's] committal for trial of the Capital offence [of attacking a guard]. Samuel had hidden a knife in his leather cap in preparation for the attack on Newman.

The *Hobart Town Courier* commented: '... the rigours of penal discipline, always severe on the unrepentant, pressed so heavily on him that he made an attempt at murder for which he has now suffered avowedly with the view of quitting life, thus rendered by and to himself so horribly wretched.'

Samuel was hanged in Hobart Town on 26 March 1834, along with the bushrangers Joseph Deane and Henry Rutland.



LOOKING FURTHER: Comparisons to Samuel's miserable experience as a convict can be found in **Profile 5** (William Langham), **Profile 26** (Dennis Collins) and **Profile 29** (Patrick Minahan), all of whom, like Samuel, died in custody. **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5** provide more information on punishment. Booth is the subject of **Profile 31** and Newman's story is told in **Profile 27**. **Eyewitness 5** includes accounts of lashings at Port Arthur.



Rev. John Allen Manton *Chaplain*

On 17 August 1807, Thomas and Jane Manton, of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, England, had a son whom they called John Allen. He had a religious leaning from childhood and when he was fifteen felt called to preach the Gospel. He was admitted into the Methodist Society in 1823, became a local preacher, and entered the Ministry in 1830.

He was prepared for missionary service and sailed for New South Wales in February 1831. Until late 1831 he preached at Parramatta, then took up an appointment at the remote penal settlement at Sarah Island, in Macquarie Harbour on the West Coast of Van Diemen's Land. That settlement closed in 1833 and Manton moved to the recently formed station at Port Arthur to become its first Chaplain, arriving there in February 1833. He travelled to Sydney within a month on special leave to marry Anne Green, formerly of Lincolnshire.

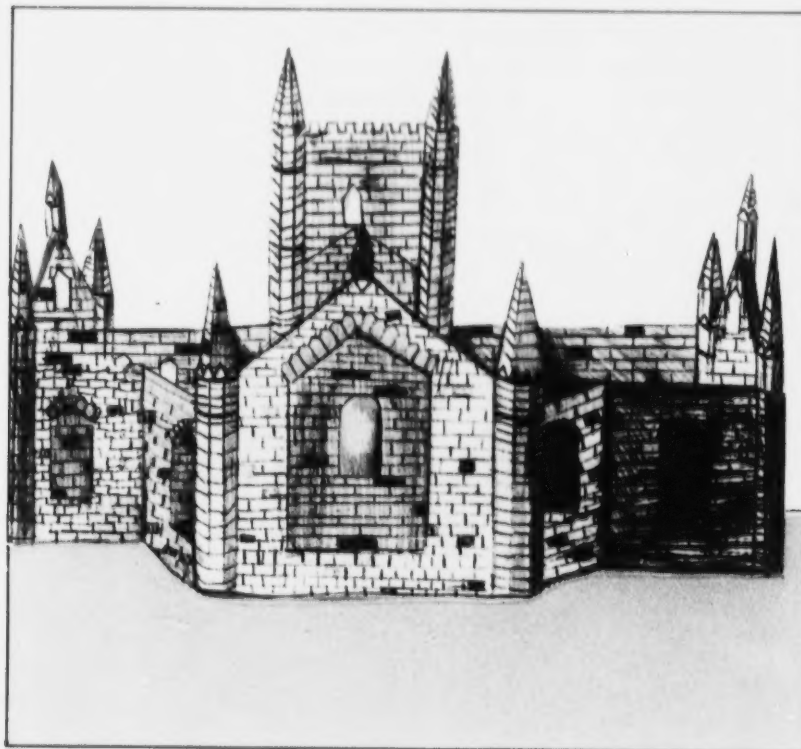
The newly married couple took up house at Port Arthur in July 1833. They had housing problems from the outset: **Dr Brownell** had provided Manton with a room before his marriage, and in July vacated his cottage for the couple. The accommodation shortage was largely solved with the building of 'a very neat house', as Manton said, in August and September. The house, just below and to the left of where the hospital ruins now stand, was completed in October, and the Mantons moved in on the fourteenth.

Manton was not just a preacher at Port Arthur. He also acted as schoolteacher for both boys and adults and was a regular visitor to Point Puer. Governor Arthur singled him out for special praise for this work.

John and Ann Manton moved to Launceston in 1834. They lived there for three years, then moved to various other towns of the colony as directed by the Wesleyan committee. In 1841 the family (including several children) was back in Port Arthur, and this time stayed over two years until the government, urged on by Bishop Nixon of the Church of England, decided to withdraw Wesleyans from penal stations. During this time, Manton faced growing opposition from Catholic prisoners, who eventually succeeded in obtaining their own Chaplain.

In January 1844 the Mantons left Port Arthur and this time did not return. They lived at Hobart Town for a while, where John was superintendent minister, and later moved to other centres. Manton re-entered the field of education when he became first principal of a Methodist college near Ross. Two years later, in 1857, he moved to New South Wales, where he became principal of Newington College in July 1863. But his health, never strong, failed after little more than a year in the position and he died in 1864, survived by Ann and their children.

In Manton's obituary, the *Tasmanian Messenger* called him 'a man of sound judgement and enlightened mind, a good preacher, a strict disciplinarian, a perfect gentleman, a thorough Wesleyan . . . his enemies were few and his friends were many'. In fact, Manton was not liked by everybody at Port Arthur—the Irishman **William Cart** was one who disliked him—but his efforts for Christianity were widely respected.



Two opinions

Mr Manton proved a kind and faithful friend—a zealous and faithful minister of the gospel.

Linus Miller

[Mr Manton] is . . . a gentleman, who has devoted himself, not only to call the sinners of Port Arthur to repentance, but who has erstwhile laboured earnestly in the same good cause at the now abandoned settlement of Macquarie Harbour.

David Burn

LOOKING FURTHER: Religion at Port Arthur is dealt with in **Background 6** and **Eyewitness 8**. The story of Richard Jones, a Catholic convict who refused to attend Manton's Protestant services, is told in **Profile 33**. Cart's life is outlined in **Profile 16**, Miller's in **Profile 14**, Brownell's in **Profile 24** and Booth's in **Profile 31**.



William Yeomans *Convict*

William Yeomans probably spent more time at Port Arthur than any other person—convict or free—during its years as a penal settlement.

Yeomans was a twenty-year-old shoemaker when in 1829 he was transported for seven years for stealing lead. He had only one previous conviction. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land early in 1830 on the transport *Bussorah Merchant*. Soon after his arrival, as an assigned servant, he rescued his master's cattle from a man called John Hayes, who was attempting to impound them as payment for debt. Hayes's charge against him was dismissed.

For three years, Yeomans went gradually downhill. When he was not in a chain gang he was employed in his original trade, shoemaking, and frequently was charged with stealing leather or shoes. He finally was sent to Port Arthur in April 1833 for hiding leather and remained there at least until 1837. He was freed in October 1839.

Yeomans did not long escape the attention of the law. Another stealing offence caused his removal to Port Arthur in 1840, where his record of theft, insubordination and absconding was judged to be so bad that in 1844 he was sent to the 'hell on earth', Norfolk Island. He was still in custody when Norfolk Island closed down in 1855 and he, along with other 'incurables', was returned to Port Arthur.

Free again in 1856, Yeomans used a shoemaker's knife to stab the woman he was planning to marry, after accusing her of drinking (he was drunk himself). The woman, Jane Ross, survived and gave evidence against Yeomans in 1857, when he was sentenced to death. But again he found himself back at Port Arthur, after his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Yeomans remained at Port Arthur for another twenty years, mainly as a result of his increasingly violent temperament (he had not previously been found guilty of violent behaviour). He was often an inmate of the Separate or Model Prison, and once threatened the prison's head keeper. When Yeomans left the settlement with other prisoners in 1877, aged 67, he had endured every form of punishment ever inflicted at Port Arthur, including a total of 470 lashes. On leaving Port Arthur, he was held in Campbell Street prison, where he probably stayed until he died.

Convict record (1830-35)

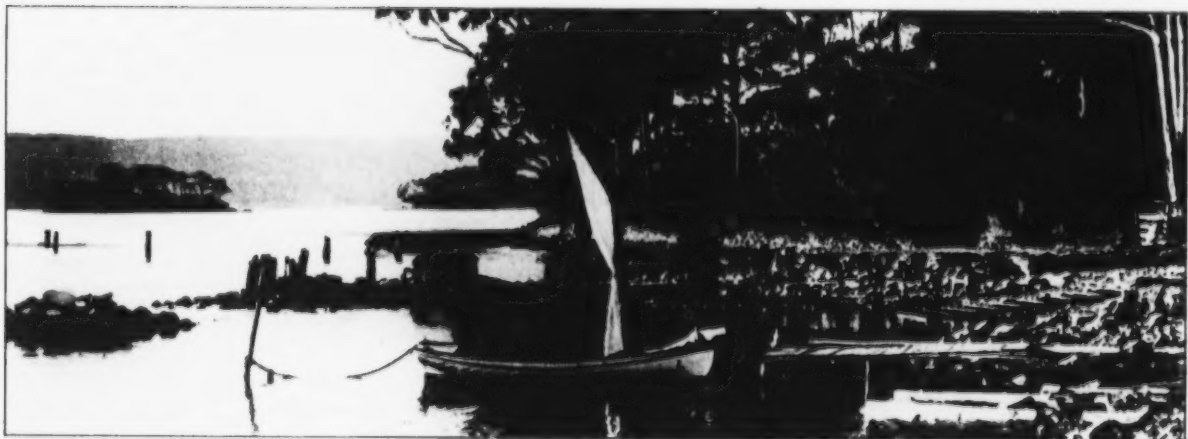
YEOMANS, William: Transported for 7 years 1829 for stealing lead.
Ship *Bussorah Merchant*. Age 20; a shoemaker.

18 April 1830—rescuing herd of cattle from John Hayes which he was driving to the Public Pound—discharged.

28 December 1830—disobedience of orders and using gross and indecent language—50 lashes and returned to his Master.

- 5 March 1831—idleness and general misconduct—3 months' imprisonment and hard labour and returned to Public Works.
- 3 December 1831—absconding—3 months' hard labour.
- 18 February 1832—disorderly conduct—1 month's imprisonment and hard labour.
- 20 March 1832—disobedience of orders in chain gang—25 lashes.
- 6 April 1832—absconding—12 months' imprisonment and hard labour in Bridgewater Chain Gang.
- 11 July 1832—refusing to work on plea of being badly shod and cutting his shoes to afford an Excuse for not working—30 lashes.
- 29 August 1832—refusing to work—20 lashes and fortnight's additional sentence.
- 16 April 1833—Giving J. Wigmore a jacket in which was concealed a quantity of leather, the property of the Crown—50 lashes. (Removed to Port Arthur.)
- 1 June 1833—performing work in unworkmanlike manner—6 weeks in irons.
- 7 June 1833—having in possession an unfinished shoe which had been privately worked contrary to orders—50 lashes.
- 18 June 1833—privately working and having leather in possession, contrary to orders—75 lashes.
- 28 September 1833—having leather secreted on person under very suspicious circumstances—6 weeks in irons.
- 23 November 1833—performing work in unworkmanlike manner—6 weeks in irons.
- 16 June 1834—not performing work in a workmanlike manner and persisting in the same although cautioned against it—36 lashes.
- 27 March 1835*—absconding—original sentence extended 2 years.

*Yeomans escaped the same day—though not in the same party—as **Edward Howard**, **Benjamin Stephens** and others: all were recaptured soon after, Howard having been shot in the arm in the process.



LOOKING FURTHER: William Langham (**Profile 5**), Henry Belfield (**Profile 25**) and Ebenezer Brittlebank (**Profile 32**) are other convicts with long records (though none as long as Yeomans's). Punishment and reform are dealt with in **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5**. The stories of Benjamin Stephens and Edward Howard are told in **Profiles 15** and **17** respectively.



William Swallow Mariner convict

Description

Name	SWALLOW, William, alias Brown
Height	5ft 9in
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Age (1829)	39
Trade	Mariner
Where tried	Surrey Assizes
When tried	28 July 1828
Sentence	Life
Ship	<i>Georgiana</i>
Native place	North Shields
Marks etc.	Scar outer side right arm
Remarks	Died 12 May 1834 . . . Port Arthur



William Swallow was born William Walker in England's North Country. He received a good schooling, and in 1804 he was apprenticed as a seaman aboard a Baltic collier. But on completion of his apprenticeship, he was conscripted into the Royal Navy, and when he was discharged he could find only temporary work in coastal traders. Despite this he married a girl named Susannah, and they set up house in Swallow's native town of Sunderland.

The great depression that followed the Napoleonic Wars hit Swallow's family as hard as it did many others: Swallow lost his job and the family became poverty-stricken. He was forced to steal from ships to prevent his family from starving, but on 22 October 1820 was arrested for stealing blankets and tea and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

He was a well-behaved prisoner, and once risked his life as an assigned prisoner on a government brig to save the ship during a severe storm. He was allowed to continue serving on the ship, and returned to England some months later. Back home with his family, he again found himself in trouble, and was sentenced to transportation for life on 28 July 1828 for breaking into a house in Surrey.

Within six months he attempted to escape from the penal colony, and was found hidden on board the ship *Georgiana* in Hobart Town. He was lashed, then sentenced to Macquarie Harbour penal settlement.

But Swallow and his fellow convicts on board the brig *Cyprus* never reached the West Coast settlement—not, at any rate, on that trip of August 1829. The ship was forced to put into Recherche Bay in the far south-east because of a south-westerly gale. Swallow and a dozen other prisoners took advantage of the week's rest. As time went on and the storm kept up, discipline on board relaxed, largely through the inexperience of Lieutenant William Carew and his guard of twelve soldiers. The ship's captain was a notorious drunkard and was in his cabin, the worse for drink, when two convicts named Jones and Brown, exercising with others on deck, distracted the attention of their two guards and knocked them out with belaying-pins. At the same time the other exercising convicts closed and held shut the hatch over the soldiers' quarters.

Lieutenant Carew had gone fishing in the ship's longboat with another prisoner, but his wife, children and servants were in their quarters when the mutiny occurred. Carew returned to find the ship firmly in the hands of seventeen mutineers, and was forced to accept their terms: fourteen days' provisions for the forty-three people—including fourteen convicts—who would be left stranded on the beach, which was remote from any settlement. It was another twelve days—on Tuesday, 25 August—before two convicts from the stranded group managed to

contact another ship, the *Orelia*, anchored in a bay to the north. The mutineers' victims were rescued and news of the mutiny made known.

But the *Cyprus* had a fine start. By the time news of the mutiny had reached Hobart Town, the ship had already reached New Zealand, where the mutineers disguised it and avoided recapture by a suspicious whaling captain. The *Cyprus* had been carrying six months' provisions for Macquarie Harbour and, well stocked with food and water, the mutineers headed for Tahiti. But adverse winds forced them to change direction and they finally made landfall at the Friendly Islands.

The islands lived up to their name and seven mutineers decided to stay indefinitely. The remaining ten, including Swallow, set sail for Japan. On reaching the coast of that country, they were told to leave immediately or risk being fired upon. Disappointed, they took to sea again, tired, frustrated, and short of water and firewood. Two of the men were so desperate to go ashore that they remained behind on the first land sighted—a Chinese island north of Canton (or Guangzhou). The remaining eight sailed on to Huang-pu (then Whampoa), where they scuttled the *Cyprus* in the open sea and went ashore in its long-boat. They made up a story: they were all shipwrecked mariners from the ship *Edward* (Swallow was its 'captain', Waldon), which had sailed from Blackwall, England, a year previously. The captain of an English ship visiting the port believed the story and took Swallow and three others on board to work their passage back to England. Three of the remainder were taken on by a Danish ship which took them to New Orleans, where they would be safe from the British.

The eighth convict, George Davis, could not get his story straight and he was put in irons and shipped back to England as a prisoner suspected of having committed a crime. His ship reached England first and by the time Swallow's vessel arrived police were waiting on the dockside to question Swallow and his three fellow pirates. Swallow avoided recapture by leaving the ship before it docked but was finally arrested on information supplied by a man named Thomas Fluke, who had married his wife Susannah when she had given up hope of ever seeing Swallow alive.

Swallow used public sympathy to avoid the noose: he claimed to have been forced to go along with the mutineers. By good chance, the *Cyprus*'s surgeon at the time of the mutiny, then back in London, gave evidence that another convict seemed to have been the ringleader. Swallow was found not guilty but his four colleagues were hanged. He was sent back to Van Diemen's Land—and to Macquarie Harbour!—because he had illegally returned to England from transportation. He was transferred to Port Arthur late in 1833. Swallow by this time was suffering from consumption, a serious lung affliction, and within six months of arrival at Port Arthur, he was dead. Captain Booth noted in his journal: 'Departed this life today "Swallow" of celebrity—the captain of the "*Cyprus*" that was taken by the Prisoners on her way to Macquarie Harbour.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Escape is dealt with in **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9**. Swallow's own exploits are the subject of a song (see **Eyewitness 10**) by Francis MacNamara (**Profile 18**). **Background 10** and **Eyewitness 13** provide further information about sickness at Port Arthur.



Charlotte Lempriere

Wife of officer

Charlotte Smith was born in England in 1803. When she was still a child she and her three sisters travelled with their parents to the West Indies, where her father, a commissioned officer, was to serve with the British Army. During their time there, the family made the acquaintance of **Thomas James Lempriere**, an army adjutant about seven years older than Charlotte. Charlotte's father died in the West Indies and soon after they returned to England the family decided to emigrate to Van Diemen's Land. Lempriere took the same ship, the *Regalia*.

On board, Charlotte and Thomas struck up a close friendship. Thomas, who was fluent in several languages, taught Charlotte French during the four-month journey. By the time they reached Hobart Town in 1822, their affair had blossomed and in May the following year they were married.

Charlotte and Thomas had twelve children in the next twenty-two years. During what must have been very difficult times for Charlotte, the family moved first to Maria Island (1826) then to Macquarie Harbour (1827), then Hobart Town (1831) and finally to Port Arthur (1833), where they lived for fifteen years.

During their time at Port Arthur, the Lemprieres became the centre of the settlement's free society. They were close friends of **Captain Booth**, who was a frequent visitor to their house before his marriage in 1838 and for whom Charlotte made up a book of pressed seaweeds in 1834 (Thomas drew a frontispiece for the book). Thomas himself was devoted to his wife, his journal suggests—he pined for her when she visited Hobart Town and spent most of his leisure time with her.

Captain LaPlace, a French mariner who had met the Lempriere family at Macquarie Harbour in 1831, visited Port Arthur in 1839 and again paid his respects to 'that charming family . . . The mistress of the house,' he said, 'looked quite as well and as young as she had in 1831, demonstrating that the best possible cosmetics for a woman's charms are tranquility of mind, self-respect, the affection of those around her and the knowledge that she has fulfilled her duty . . . [The children] were lively, intelligent, obedient, affectionate towards them.'

The family moved to Oatlands in 1848 but Thomas felt he needed to leave Van Diemen's Land temporarily to obtain promotion. Intending to return within a year or two, he took a post in Hong Kong but contracted dysentery and died on his way back to England. The family had stayed behind in Van Diemen's Land and Charlotte was left with the care of four of her children (the remainder had already left home).

Charlotte stayed in Tasmania, living her last years with her daughter Fanny and Fanny's husband, Thomas Westbrook, at Bellerive. She died in 1890, aged eighty-seven.

LOOKING FURTHER: Background 9 and Eyewitness 16 are about the lives of free officials and their families at Port Arthur. Profile 3 is about Thomas Lempriere and Profile 28 tells of Ann Forrest, servant to the Lemprieres.





Dr Thomas Coke Brownell *Medical Officer*

Thomas Brownell was born on 16 December 1800 on the Caribbean island of St Christopher, the son of a Wesleyan missionary. He travelled to England as a child and was educated there. In about 1816, he was apprenticed to a doctor in Yorkshire and on becoming qualified he practised in Halifax, Yorkshire. He was married in about 1826 and, with his wife Elizabeth and their two children, left Hull in September 1829 to seek a new life in the Australian colonies.

The family landed at the newly established Swan River settlement in Western Australia in February 1830. There was no accommodation, and they had to live in tents on the beach. As Brownell wrote later, 'my wife's dresses had been torn . . . and we had not five shillings between us'. After eight weeks of fruitless searching for land to build on and thoroughly depressed, the Brownells sold some personal goods to raise enough money to take them to Hobart Town, where they arrived late in April 1830.

Brownell had intended to set up practice in Hobart Town, but was offered—and accepted—the post of medical officer and catechist at Maria Island penal settlement, which then had been established for five years. With a salary of £50 a year, a comfortable home and an assigned servant, the family enjoyed their two years on the island. Brownell, an active Christian, was as much a religious instructor as a doctor on the island, and when the family moved to Port Arthur in October 1832 he was the settlement's sole catechist. He was succeeded in this role by **Rev. John Allen Manton**, with whom he enjoyed a close friendship for many years, naming one of his children after him.

In 1833 Brownell left Port Arthur, disappointed at the failure of his efforts to heal and reform the convicts. He found the prisoners generally degenerate, of 'a reprobate mind' and lost 'to everything good or decent'. His efforts to reform met with little effect. Discipline at Port Arthur, he felt, was severe 'bordering on cruelty', but just.

For seven years Brownell, sometimes with the help of Elizabeth (a schoolteacher), tried his hand at private medical practice, farming at Brighton, and religious instruction and teaching at Bridgewater penal station and Avoca in the Fingal valley. In December 1840, the family—now with eleven children—found itself back at Port Arthur with Brownell as medical officer-in-charge. His second term there, of fifteen months, was very busy: he reported that in a six-month term 5833 medical cases had been dealt with, including about four thousand by him personally. The new hospital was completed in the closing months of this period. Although he had three medical assistants, Brownell found the duties 'arduous and extensive' and took up another government post at George Town in 1843. The following year saw the



family back on Maria Island (which had been reopened by the government as a penal settlement after closing in 1832). Then for five years until 1853 they were again in Hobart Town, where Brownell was a medical officer with the Immigration Department.

In December 1853, the family moved to Port Arthur for a third time and this time stayed for nearly five years. This period seems to have been happy and settled, but Brownell was plagued by a rheumatic condition and was forced to retire in 1857. He died in Hobart in 1871. Elizabeth survived him by four years.

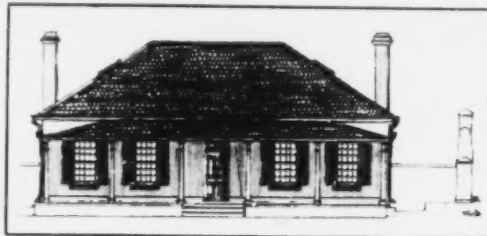
The family became well established in Hobart society. A son of Thomas and Elizabeth established the department store, Brownells, in Liverpool Street (now Myers).

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS HOUSE

By Sam

The Medical officers house was built in 1847-48. Thomas Lempriere lived in it for only a few months. In late 1848 it became the home of Frederick Brock, the settlement's Medical officer.

Medical Officer's House, 1848



This house stayed as a Medical Officers house until the early 1870's, when the schoolmaster William Todd came to live there. When Port Arthur was closed in 1877, the house was sold to a surveyor, Archibald Blackwood. In the 1900's it was a guest house called "Tasman Villa". In 1921 it was licenced as the "Hotel Arthur". By 1946 the hotel had 50

guest rooms and numerous extensions and outhouses to the sides and rear. The Hotel Arthur closed up in 1959, and the house was given to the government. The restored Medical officers house now has furniture and effects like it was when the medical officer Thomas Brownell and his family lived there.

LOOKING FURTHER: Background 10 and Eyewitness 13 have information on medicine at Port Arthur. The story of William Langham, who assaulted Brownell with a knife in 1842, is told in Profile 5. Rev. Manton is the subject of Profile 20.

PROFILE



Henry Belfield *Convict*

Henry Belfield was a boy of eleven when in 1835 he was caught in the act of stealing a watch from a shop in Chester, England. He had had three previous convictions for stealing money or clothes, and the court decided that it had given him enough chances. He was sentenced to seven years' transportation and sailed for Van Diemen's Land in the same year, aboard the ship *Layton*. On arrival he was assigned as a servant to a Midlands property owner.

He was in trouble within a year, being convicted of burglary at Campbell Town in October 1836, for which he was put on probation because of his youth. For neglect of work in the Campbell Town gang he was again treated lightly and given two extra Saturdays' work. But an attempt to abscond three months later brought him twenty lashes (he was then fourteen). The punishment seems to have done little good: within six weeks he attempted to abscond again and this time was given six months' hard labour.

From then it was a downhill slide for Belfield. He had tried, it seemed, not to upset his masters, and went for quite long periods (a year or more) without committing offences. But in June 1840 he was sent to Port Arthur for absconding, the first of two visits to the penal settlement. He was then sixteen years old. A year and five months later he was back again after a series of misdemeanours culminating in a sentence of two years' hard labour in chains for 'insubordination'. By this time he had come to know **Thomas Boardman**, a youth slightly younger than he. He felt Boardman had been responsible in some way for his having been again sent to Port Arthur and sought revenge.

While the two were together on a work gang in the bush a few miles from Port Arthur on 28 December 1841, Belfield persuaded Boardman to accompany him to a creek to get a drink of water. While out of sight of the rest of the gang, Belfield seized a heavy piece of wood and bashed Boardman about the head until he was unconscious. He then left him for dead and reported that he had absconded. It was some days before another convict found Boardman, still alive but in a shocking condition with severe head wounds. Boardman survived long enough to identify his attacker and Belfield was committed for trial in Hobart Town on a charge of murder.

Rev. John Manton, the Chaplain, spoke to Belfield before the youth—still only eighteen years old—was sent to Hobart Town. Belfield did not attempt to deny his guilt, but 'wept bitterly', as a visitor at the time, David Burn, reported. Burn found Belfield to be 'a poor, simple, well-featured boy, with a countenance anything but ferocious'.

Belfield was found guilty of murder on 20 January 1842 and was hanged within a fortnight.

Convict record

BELFIELD, Henry: Tried Chester 1835 for stealing watch (3 previous offences). Sentenced to transportation for 7 years. Ship *Layton*.
13 October 1836—burglary, Campbell Town, 12 months' probation.
28 August 1838—neglect of work, Campbell Town gang, 2 extra Saturdays' work.
5 November 1838—absconding, Campbell Town Gang, 20 lashes on breech and returned to the Gang.
18 December 1838—absconding while on assignment, 6 months' hard labour.
27 November 1839—insolence and disobedience of orders on assignment, returned to Government service.
20 June 1840—absconding, term of transportation extended 2 years and removed to Port Arthur; conduct to be reported in 12 months.
16 June 1841—at Hobart Town, having money in possession contrary to orders, reprimanded.
20 September 1841—being drunk, 3 months' hard labour on the roads.
22 September 1841—disobedience of orders, Picton Road Gang, 6 days' solitary confinement.
29 September 1841—disobedience of orders, 12 lashes on the breech.
15 October 1841—absconding, 1 week's solitary confinement.
28 October 1841—misconduct, 10 days' solitary confinement.
15 November 1841—insubordination, 2 years' hard labour in chains and removed to Port Arthur.
2 January 1842—committed for trial in Hobart Town for murder of Thomas Boardman. Supreme Court Hobart
20 January 1842—to be hanged.
 Executed 2 February 1842



LOOKING FURTHER: The subject of murder is dealt with in **Eyewitness 3**. Boardman's life is outlined in **Profile 8**. For similar cases, see **Profiles 1 and 29** (Travers and Minahan). Rev. Manton's career is outlined in **Profile 20**.



Dennis Collins *Convict*

Description

Name	COLLINS, Dennis
Trade	Labourer
Height	5ft 3in
Age (1833)	58
Native place	Cork
Complexion	Ruddy
Head	Small
Hair	Brown
Whiskers	Grey
Visage	Narrow
Forehead	Retreating
Eyebrows	Lt brown
Eyes	Lt grey
Nose	Aquiline
Remarks	Lost left leg

Dennis Collins was born in Cork, southern Ireland, in 1775. As soon as he was old enough, he joined the Royal Navy and went to sea. It was not long before he saw action; Britain was at war with France from the early 1790s until Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815. For much of this time the two countries were competing for supremacy of the sea, a struggle which Britain eventually won.

It was not without cost to Collins. His leg was badly injured during a battle at sea and was later amputated. He sought and received a pension from the British Government but lost it again some years later. He sought an explanation but received none. He went through all the known channels to have his pension restored. The loss of a leg, especially during the post-Napoleonic depression in Britain, made it very difficult to obtain other employment. Collins could obtain no response and in 1832, in desperation, he petitioned the King, William IV. This was the same year as the passing of the great First Reform Bill, which sought to make government more democratic. The King, however, turned down Collins's petition.

The man's desperation turned to anger. In July 1832 he went to the Ascot races, taking up a position as close to the Royal enclosure as a commoner could be. When the King entered the enclosure and took his seat, Collins let fly with a stone, which hit the King on his hat.

Authority was outraged and Collins was arrested and charged with high treason. Found guilty, he was sentenced to be hanged, then drawn (or disembowelled), then beheaded and quartered (the body cut into pieces). The bloody sentence was commuted to transportation for life and on 12 August 1833 Collins landed at Hobart Town aboard the *Emperor Alexander*, a sullen and angry man.

On arrival he was transferred directly to Port Arthur, a treatment reserved for prisoners considered particularly difficult or guilty of an especially serious crime. He had only two offences recorded against his name in Van Diemen's Land, both at Port Arthur. On 3 and 11 October 1833, he refused orders to go to work. He was placed in solitary confinement for seven days on each charge. But by now he was beyond the reach of the law.

Collins had refused to eat soon after his arrival in the Colony. Persuasion and force met with stubborn resistance and by mid-October he was very weak. He was put in hospital at Port Arthur but became unconscious and died on the first of November, 1833.

Rev John Manton, the Protestant Chaplain, was a frequent visitor to his bedside in his last days. Manton later commented: 'He was a bigoted Roman Catholic and did not request my visits; nevertheless, I saw him frequently and trust I warned him faithfully. He died apparently

without hope . . . At [his] grave, after a lapse of ten years, my mind was sensibly affected by the recollection of the words of Solomon: "The perverseness of transgression shall destroy them".

Collins was not persuaded by Manton nor by any other authority. He died unrepentant of his 'treason'—a Catholic and an Irishman to the last. He was buried in an unmarked grave on Isle of the Dead.

Convict record

COLLINS, Dennis: Berkshire Assizes 16 July 1832. Life. Per *Emperor Alexander*, 12 August 1833.

Transported for High Treason in throwing and striking the King with a Stone.

Gaol Report—Very Discontented as regards the rules of the prison.

Hulk Report—vicious and irritable temper.

Single.

Stated . . . I was sentenced to be drawn . . . then to be beheaded and quartered. The reason I threw the stone at the King was that I petitioned the King to restore my pension and he refused . . .

Surgeon's report—Conduct for the first six weeks most disorderly, insubordinate, refractory and that of a madman. Subsequently quiet, tractable and submissive.

Surgeon's Special Report—Though the man has been troublesome, insubordinate and refractory for a time his conduct at other times and particularly subsequently has been better.



LOOKING FURTHER: Other convicts who died in hospital at Port Arthur were Henry Savery (**Profile 2**) and William Swallow (**Profile 22**). Rev. Manton, who attempted to 'warn' Collins, is the subject of **Profile 20**. The questions of punishment and reform are explored in **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5**.



Richard Newman

Chief constable

Richard Newman was born in England in 1784. He enlisted as a private in the British Army about 1800, and fought against Napoleon in several campaigns. His wife Sarah accompanied him during Wellington's campaign against Napoleon in Spain and Portugal (the Peninsula Wars), in the course of which she gave birth to two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Newman was rewarded for his service with a commission. He soon after left the Army and for several years in the early 1820s was Principal Inspector of Police at Bow Street, London. In 1827, the family, which then included three children, moved to Van Diemen's Land. After failing in his attempts to establish the family on the land, Newman accepted the offer of the position of Chief Constable on Tasman Peninsula in May 1833. He was then 49 years old.

While the Newmans were at Port Arthur, Sarah died, at the age of 53, leaving two sons and a daughter. The following year (1844) Newman asked to be relieved of his duties as Chief Constable because he was unable to fulfil them. He retired in 1845 but a dispute over whether or not a pension was due to him continued for a few years.

Newman's older son, Richard, was taught painting at Port Arthur by **Thomas Lempriere**. His watercolours of Point Puer, the Commandant's garden and East Bay Neck still survive in the Allport Collection, State Library of Tasmania. This son died when he was only 22—in 1846, the year after his father retired. A younger son, Robert, worked as a registrar and clerk at Port Arthur before going to Port Phillip (Melbourne) in 1852.

While at Port Arthur, Newman worked closely at Port Arthur with **Commandant Booth** in maintaining tight security and preserving the settlement's record as an almost escape-proof prison. One incident in which he was involved—an attack on him by the black man **Samuel**—was recorded in Booth's journal, but generally he seems to have kept a low profile. The date of his death is not known.



LOOKING FURTHER: Newman's responsibilities are put in perspective in **Background 4** and **Eyewitness 14**. **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9** deal with escape. The attack on Newman is outlined further in **Profile 19**. Lempriere's life is the subject of **Profile 3**.



Anne Forrest *Convict Servant*

Description (ship's indent)

Name	FORREST, Ann
Trade	House servant
Height	5ft 4in
Age (1834)	24
Complexion	Fresh
Head	Oval
Hair	Brown
Visage	Oval
Forehead	Med. height
Eyebrows	Brown
Eyes	Green
Nose	Sharp
Mouth	Med. width
Chin	Projecting
Remarks	Stout made



Ann Forrest, a native of Cork, Ireland, was 23 when convicted in Middlesex, England, of the crime of stealing from a man. There is no record of what she stole. She was sentenced to be transported to Van Diemen's Land for seven years, having on four previous occasions been imprisoned for a month each time.

Anne Forrest left England on the ship *Edward*, arriving in Hobart Town on 4 September 1834. The ship's convict indent describes her as fresh-complexioned, five feet four inches in height, with an oval head, brown hair and eyebrows, green eyes, a sharp nose and a projecting chin. It was noted that she was 'stout made'.

She was sent initially to the Cascade 'Female Factory', a women's prison or 'barracks' in South Hobart (now a historic site). At the Factory women usually performed such monotonous tasks as sewing and sorting and carding wool but there was free time for talking, playing cards and even dancing—or, at times of lax supervision, drinking smuggled rum. From the Factory, Forrest was assigned to various masters and mistresses to work as a domestic servant. Small acts of 'insubordination' by assigned female convicts, such as insolence or refusing to obey orders, were usually dealt with by returning such prisoners to the Factory. There, prisoners were able to mix freely with each other and they often preferred to be back there than to be alone, out on assignment.

Female convicts, though harshly treated, were handled very differently from male prisoners in Van Diemen's Land. In the 1830s there were seven classes of male convicts ranging from ticket-of-leave at the top to hard labour in chains at a penal settlement at the bottom end. For females, there were three classes: assigned servants (Class 1), convicts placed in government service for committing minor offences (Class 2) and those guilty of more serious offences (Class 3 or 'crime class'). Lashing of women convicts was not provided for in the regulations; the worst punishment was generally solitary confinement on bread and water.

No female convicts were sent to Port Arthur as a punishment. Ann Forrest, like a small number of other convicted women, went to Port Arthur as an assigned servant. Her master in 1837 was **Thomas Lempriere**, then Deputy Assistant Commissary General. Forrest lived in servants' quarters attached to or close to Lempriere's house, which in 1837 was on the hillside near where the Hospital ruins are now. She was responsible for preparing meals, washing dishes and clothes, cleaning the house and any other suitable tasks that the Lemprieres chose to give her.

Being involved with food preparation, Forrest also had access to Lempriere's wine and spirits, a freedom she unfortunately took

advantage of. On 8 July 1837, Lempriere had had enough. He wrote of Forrest in his diary: 'She did not come home till past 1 am—quite drunk and insisted upon being confined. I sent her as she was to the cells.' A week later, he 'wrote to the Commandant to recommend that female servants should be punished on the spot in lieu of forwarding them to Hobart Town and he has agreed to my suggestion.' As a result, Forrest was sentenced by **Booth** to spend forty-eight hours in solitary confinement on bread and water.

After leaving Port Arthur later in the year, Forrest had a patchy record of insolence and refusal to work. We have little information about her life after January 1840, when she was sent to the 'Female Factory' to serve eight months, in 'crime' class. She was single until 1841, when she married William Froggatt, also a transported convict and three years younger than she.

Convict record

FORREST, Ann: Tried Middlesex, sentenced 7 years' transportation 26 November 1833 for larceny.

Gaol report: in prison 4 times before, 1 month each time. Vagrancy—four years on the town . . . Single.

Surgeon's report: orderly.

Arrived Van Diemen's Land 4 September 1834, ship *Edward*.

2 March 1835—neglect of duty, admonished.

16 April 1835—neglect of duty, 3 months 2nd class.

27 July 1835—drunk, cells for 6 days, bread and water.

15 August 1835—out after hours, wash tub 1 month.

6 October 1835—drunk, wash tub 1 month.

7 October 1835—larceny to amount of £4, existing sentence extended 3 years.

28 December 1836—disobedience of orders and using obscene language, cells 6 days.

31 January 1837—absent all night without leave and being drunk, crime class 1 month, then afterwards out of town [Port Arthur].





- 24 July 1837*—[Port Arthur] absenting herself without leave, 48 hours' solitary confinement on bread and water.
 - 8 February 1838*—disobedience of orders, 4 days' sol. imprisonment on b & w.
 - 12 February 1838*—disobedience of orders, 6 days' sol. imp. on b & w.
 - 20 February 1838*—refusing to return to service of master [Cockerill]; returned to government service.
 - 8 March 1838*—drunkenness, insolence, abusive language, neglect of duty, 12 days' hard labour and not to be returned to her master. (To female factory, South Hobart, 17 March 1838).
 - 14 March 1839*—insolence and disobedience of orders, 14 days' sol. conf. on bread and water.
 - 30 March 1839*—disobedience of orders in refusing to return to her service, 14 days cells on b & w.
 - 29 April 1839*—absenting herself from her master's premises without leave, 14 days' sol. conf.
 - 31 October 1839*—absent without leave, hard labour at wash tub for 1 month.
 - 3 January 1840*—refusing to work and insolence, crime class for 8 months. (To Factory, Hobart, 10 January 1840).
- (Record ends here.)

LOOKING FURTHER: **Background 9** has information on women at Port Arthur and **Eyewitness 7** tells of contact between convicts and free people. **Profiles 3** and **23** are about Thomas and Charlotte Lempriere. The story of another woman at Port Arthur (wife of the Commandant) is told in **Profile 9**.

PROFILE



Patrick Minahan *Convict*

In 1838 an Irish private of the British Army was given a seven-year sentence of transportation for having maliciously stabbed his sergeant with a bayonet. The man, Patrick Minahan, had never previously committed an offence. There is no record of his age, but the fact that he was unmarried suggests that he might have still been a young man.

Minahan arrived in Hobart Town aboard the *Guillardon* on 13 December 1838. For the next two years he was regularly in trouble for absconding, refusing to work, drunkenness, misconduct or abusive language. Having started as an assigned servant to the Rev. William Bedford, a senior Church of England clergyman, Minahan spent most of his time in chains, on road gangs or at Port Arthur. By early 1841 he had had enough: it was almost certainly Minahan who said to his fellow-stone-breaker **William Derricourt**, 'My life is only a misery to me and I would rather shorten it; I don't care what means I take.' Minahan was then at Port Arthur, chained to a cable, along with other 'worst case' convicts, in a yard beside the settlement's main street. Standing in one spot all day (fourteen hours) with only the occasional short break, Minahan and his colleagues were forced to break large stones with a heavy hammer.

It is uncertain why Minahan, on 17 April 1841, attacked **James Travers**, a fellow convict, with his hammer. He may simply have been tired of life or there may have been another reason. The court that later heard the case was told that a group of the men had planned to escape and had obtained a file to cut their irons. The plot was discovered and the file confiscated. Minahan was said to have told Travers on the morning of the attack that he (Travers) was suspected of having revealed the plot to authorities, and that he was soon to die for it.

In any event, as the men were leaving the yard at the end of their day's work, Minahan went up to Travers and knocked him to the ground, hitting him on the head with his stone-breaking hammer. The *Hobart Town Courier* later related the incident:

An overseer named Sincok immediately ran towards him and said, 'Paddy, you should not have done that.' He replied, 'There lies one b——y dog, stiff enough!' On being asked how he came to do this, he said he was tired of life, and that the deceased deserved it, as he had deprived him . . . of liberty . . . The lad was lying senseless on the floor, and bleeding profusely from wounds on the head; the prisoner was taken into custody, and the lad (Travers) . . . removed into the hospital.

Another witness, who told the court he tried to stop Minahan, was **Benjamin Stephens**.

Dr Thomas Brownell attended Travers in hospital. The victim had a fractured skull, with a splinter of bone penetrating the brain. He lingered on for more than a month before his death on 29 May. Minahan was then tried in Hobart Town for murder.

In passing sentence, the judge ordered that Minahan be hanged and that his body be dissected for medical study. As he was taken from the court, Minahan shouted, 'Thanks be to God! You cannot dissect my soul, although you can my body!' He was hanged on 18 June 1841, attended by the leader of the colony's Catholic community, Father Therry, who on the scaffold read out Minahan's confession of guilt in which he warned convicts against trying to escape. 'At the conclusion', a report said, 'the culprit said with a firm voice, "God bless you all", when the fatal bolt was drawn and the unhappy man was launched to eternity.'



Convict record

MINAHAN, Patrick: Court-martialled 23 January 1838 for maliciously stabbing . . . a sergeant with [his] bayonet. Sentence 7 years' transportation. Never punished before.

Arrived 13 December 1838 per *Guillardon*.

22 February 1839—absconding from service of Rev. Mr Bedford, charge dismissed.

Same date—absent without leave and gross misconduct, 3 months' hard labour in chains and returned to the Crown.

14 March 1839—absconding while on road duty, 1 year hard labour in chains; recommended to be sent to Port Arthur.

13 April 1839—existing sentence extended two years and recommended to be sent to Port Arthur.

2 September 1839—refusing to work on chain gang, solitary confinement on bread and water for 2 days.

- 8 October 1839*—neglect of duty and insolence, solitary confinement on b & w for 14 days.
- 18 December 1839*—idleness and disobedience of orders, cell 14 days on b & w.
- 13 January 1840*—absent from his Gang on plea of illness, to be remanded to New Bay Hulk Chain Gang.
- 11 May 1840*—absent without leave and drunk, 6 months' hard labour and returned to Hobart Town Surveyor's Chain Gang.
- 15 July 1840*—disobedience of orders, hard labour in chains a further 2 months.
- 16 July 1840*—under sentence to hard labour on tread wheel, cell on b & w 14 days.
- 14 August 1840*—absconding, existing sentence of transportation extended 6 months.
- 31 July 1840*—disobedience of orders on chain gang, reported.
- 26 August 1840*—misconduct, idleness, making use of indecent language to his overseer, 36 lashes.
- Same date*—violent and threatening language in the Police Office, 14 days' solitary confinement on b & w. Recommended that on account of his desperate conduct he be sent to Port Arthur for the remainder of his existing sentence to hard labour in chains.
- 13 November 1840*—illegally at large, committed for trial.
- 23 February*—misconduct, 14 days' solitary.
- Same date*—insubordination, 100 stripes.
- [*27 April 1841*—assault on James Travers.]
- Executed for murder 18 June 1841.

LOOKING FURTHER: *Eyewitness 3* deals with murder at Port Arthur. *Background 5* and *Eyewitness 5* are about punishment. The story of Travers is told in *Profile 1*, Stephens in *Profile 15* and Dr Brownell in *Profile 24*. Derricourt, another witness, is the subject of *Profile 11*.

PROFILE

John Frost *Political prisoner*

Description

Trade	Woollen draper
Height	5ft 7in
Age (early 1840)	55
Complexion	Fair
Hair	Grey
Whiskers	Grey
Eyes	Grey
Mouth	Small
Native place	Newport

England's Reform Bill of 1832 did much to make the country's government more democratic, but it left many people still without a vote and many large private interests still holding great power. In fact, the power of property and the repression of working-class unions seemed unaffected by the Bill. In the late 1830s, there emerged a political movement based on the 'People's Charter', which demanded that all Englishmen—not just property-owners and other selected classes—be given the vote. (Women were not included, however: they did not get the vote in Britain until 1918.) The movement was called Chartism, and one of its leading members was John Frost.

Frost was born in 1784 at Newport, in western England, the son of a hotel-keeper. His early career was in drapery and tailoring and in 1806 he took over a tailor's shop in Newport. He married Mary Geach, a widow, in 1812; they had two sons and five daughters.

Frost also had literary talents and a strong interest in politics. From about 1816, he became a radical, seeking parliamentary reform and reduced taxation. He was imprisoned for libel about 1830 when he attacked in print Newport's conservative Town Clerk, Thomas Prothero. He was elected to the Newport Town Council in 1835 and was mayor a year later. His interest in democratic reform took him to the first Chartist convention in February 1839 and he was chairman for the convention of 14 September 1839. By this time many leading Chartists had been arrested for promoting public disorder (sedition) and the convention was dissolved.

Frustrated and angry, Frost decided to use force. He led an armed band of workers (mostly miners) in an attempt to take control of Newport on 4 November 1839. The rebellion was easily put down and Frost was arrested with colleagues Zephania Williams and William Jones and found guilty of making war on his Queen. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered but in February 1840 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

The three men sailed together on the *Mandarin*, arriving in Hobart Town on 30 June 1840. As political prisoners they had certain privileges, being kept off hard physical labour and allowed to keep their own clothes. Frost was sent to Port Arthur, where he became a clerk in the office of **Commandant Booth**. He was then 56 years old.

On 21 July 1840 Frost wrote a letter to his wife, Mary, in England, in which he commented that the Governor (Sir John Franklin) had told him that he was not sent to Port Arthur for punishment, 'but to fill certain offices'. He wrote: 'The labour has not been heavy. I am in excellent health—I never was better; and my spirits are very good, considering all things—much better than I could possibly have

anticipated. The climate is, so far as I have seen, very good; milder, I expect, than our own country; . . . and from what I hear, I think Port Arthur is a very healthy place.'

Frost was transferred to Brown's River (Kingston) late in 1841 and on 22 November he committed the only offence recorded against his name in Van Diemen's Land: using improper and insolent language to the superintendent of convicts, for which he received three days' solitary confinement. It was recommended that he be sent to Port Arthur but he went instead to Impression Bay (now Premaydena) to work 'in the same manner as other convicts'. He was appointed schoolmaster and eventually made the acquaintance of **James Purslowe**, Superintendent. Frost was 'studious, quiet and obedient . . . attentive to his duties'. He was released on probation on 17 November 1843 and worked for a number of private employers in Hobart Town and Bothwell until given his ticket-of-leave in 1846. He was a teacher for eight years at various places until in 1854 he received a conditional pardon. Six months later he sailed for America. He was given a free pardon on 24 February 1857, by which time he was back in England, writing and lecturing on his experiences as a convict. He was now seventy-two.

Frost gradually gave up public life and lived quietly with his family near Bristol until he died in 1877 at the age of 93 years.

Convict record

FROST, John: Tried Monmouth 10 December 1839. Life (transportation). Embarked 20 February 1840; arrived 30 June 1840. Transported for High Treason . . . convicted and imprisoned before for a Libel Offence. His character very good . . . Married, 7 children.

Offences and sentences: 22 November 1841, Brown's River—misconduct in using improper and insolent language to the Superintendent—3 days solitary confinement and recommended to be removed to Port Arthur . . . Approved, Impression Bay, to be employed at labour in the same manner as other convicts.

Released from 1st Stage of Probation 17th November 1843

Ticket-of-leave 3 November 1846 Conditional Pardon approved 27/6/54

Free Pardon 24 February 1857

Remarks: February 1842—Studious, quiet and obedient schoolmaster, attentive to his duties. April 1842—very good Schoolmaster. May 1842—ditto. August 1842—exemplary. September 1842—ditto. October 1842—exemplary schoolmaster.

LOOKING FURTHER: Details of how another political prisoner lived at Port Arthur are in **Eyewitness 18**. **Profile 14** (Miller) and **Profile 35** (O'Brien) deal with political prisoners. Dennis Collins (**Profile 26**) can also be considered a political prisoner, as can Richard Jones (**Profile 33**). Booth's story is told in **Profile 31** and Purslowe's in **Profile 6**.

PROFILE

31

Captain Charles O'Hara Booth *Commandant*

General Charles O'Hara, British Army, was Lieutenant Governor of Gibraltar when in 1793 one of that colony's dockyard employees, Richard Booth, married Mary Deze, daughter of one of O'Hara's senior officials. The Booths were apparently highly impressed by O'Hara and when a son was born to them on 31 August 1800, they named him 'Charles O'Hara'.

Charles O'Hara Booth followed in his namesake's footsteps. In 1815, three weeks after the Battle of Waterloo, he left England to join the Army in Calcutta, capital of Bengal in India. He was taken on as a potential officer—a 'volunteer'—in the 53rd Regiment in February 1816, and in August of the same year he became an ensign. He served at Trichinopoly, in southern India, for two years before returning to England on half pay.

In December 1820 Booth sailed for Barbados, in the West Indies, to join his new regiment, the 21st. He left behind a girl we know only as 'little Rosa', after a brief romance on the Isle of Wight. Booth departed 'broken hearted' and was to remember the affair for many years.

Soon after arriving at Barbados, Booth was dispatched with several companies of his regiment to a new British colony on the South American mainland, known after 1831 as British Guiana. The colony's labour force was mainly slaves; the trade in African slaves had officially been abolished in 1807 but slaves were still maintained on British plantations in the Americas. In Guiana alone in 1825, there were about 100,000 slaves. In 1823, Booth's regiment was involved during a slave uprising in which ringleaders were summarily shot. The next year Booth was transferred to St Vincent, an island colony. There he took a house with a woman named Caralin Wharton, who bore him a daughter and a son. The practice was common among military officers in the colonies at the time. When his regiment sailed for England in 1827, Booth left Caralin and their children and he never saw them again.

While in the West Indies, Booth had been court-martialed for using insulting language to a commanding officer and disobeying orders. He had been severely reprimanded and was in disgrace when the regiment arrived in England in February 1827. Booth was then a first lieutenant. In the same year his regiment was posted to Ireland, where he spent three years in relative peace and during which time he bought himself a captain's commission. In October 1831, Booth returned to England but within a year was on his way to Australia with his regiment.



Captain Booth arrived in Hobart Town on 1 February 1833. Within six weeks he had been appointed Commandant at Port Arthur, which was then the colony's major penal settlement. His high salary and very responsible position gave him a foothold in Van Diemen's Land society, which held him in high regard.

At Port Arthur, Booth quickly made a name for himself as a careful administrator, an innovative planner and an energetic builder. His eleven years there saw the establishment of a highly efficient semaphore system and the construction of Australia's first railway, from Norfolk Bay to Oakwood. He was regarded as severe but just in his treatment of convicts. However, he was also accused of being insensitive about individual problems in his zeal to treat all prisoners equally. As Commandant, he was also a magistrate and a justice of the peace.

His senior officers, military and civil, and authorities in Hobart Town, including Governors Arthur and Franklin, held Booth in very high esteem. His plans for Point Puer particularly impressed Franklin: Booth's idea was to separate very young prisoners from their older, more hardened fellows and to give the boys special attention and training for trades.

Booth was a bachelor at Port Arthur for his first five years and frequently visited the homes of married officials, in particular **Thomas Lempriere** and his wife **Charlotte**. A visitor, James Ross, said that on first meeting Booth, 'he entertained us till a late hour with a great variety of interesting anecdotes [about Port Arthur] . . . I am thoroughly convinced there is no man living better qualified for the important charge he has undertaken'. Some did not like him; the medical officer in the mid-1830s, Cornelius Casey, found Booth high-handed and peremptory.



In 1838 Booth suffered the most serious setback to his career when he became lost in the bush of Forestier Peninsula. He had visited a constable's post on the East Coast of the Peninsula with a convict assistant, Joseph Turner, when the pair lost their way in the central hills. The two became separated and Turner found his way to the house



of a settler, Captain John Spotswood, who raised the alarm. Thomas Lempriere soon arrived from Port Arthur, having received the news by semaphore signal, and led the search party of soldiers, constables and settlers. By this time Booth was three days overdue and had spent three nights in cold, wet autumn weather, weak with hunger and with only his three dogs for company. Finally, after another night, one of the dogs, Sandy, spotted a searcher and took him to Booth, who was frostbitten and too weak even to call out. He was taken by boat and railway back to Port Arthur but never fully recovered from the ordeal.

In November of the same year, Booth married **Elizabeth Charlotte Eagle**, stepdaughter of the surgeon in his regiment, Dr Edward Pilkington. She was nineteen, exactly half Booth's age, but they had known each other since she was a child. They were to have two daughters.

Booth's marriage and his mishap in the bush changed his career and his life. As his health remained poor and his interest turned to family life, so his enthusiasm for the settlement diminished. He retired from the Army in 1840 and, although he remained at Port Arthur another four years, he bought land in the North-East and applied for other government posts in preparation for an easier life. In 1844 he left the Peninsula to become Superintendent of the Queen's Orphan Schools at New Town, where he remained until he died suddenly from a heart attack on 11 August 1851, aged fifty.

LOOKING FURTHER: Booth's life and work at Port Arthur touched on virtually every aspect of its operation. **Background 4** and **Eyewitness 14** (Controlling the convicts) help to put his administration into perspective. **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5** (about punishment) and **Background 8** and **Eyewitness 9** (about escape) also deal with matters with which he was closely involved. Booth and his wife Elizabeth (**Profile 9**) had social contact with all of the free officials in the Profiles, particularly with Thomas and Charlotte Lempriere (**Profiles 3** and **23**).



Ebenezer Brittlebank *Convict*

Ebenezer Brittlebank was born in Yorkshire about 1760. Almost nothing is known of his early life. He may have had some experience of gardening or farming—that was his main occupation as a prisoner in Van Diemen's Land—but he is also recorded late in his life as being a broom-maker. Records do not reveal whether or not he was married.

In January 1825, he was tried at York for stealing. Having had previous convictions, he was sentenced to seven years' transportation and arrived in Hobart Town in September 1825 aboard the *Medina*. He was immediately sent out as an assigned servant.

On 5 January 1826, Brittlebank was confined to the Hobart Town prisoners' barracks for neglect of duty and repeated misconduct. He was soon after assigned to work as a gardener for Rev. Robert Knopwood at Bellerive but this quickly came to an end. After two more convictions for being drunk and disorderly, in 1826 Brittlebank was returned to the barracks and given fifty lashes after making away with Knopwood's spade, hoe, iron pot, saucepan and frying pan. In July of the following year, he was sent to Maria Island for stealing gun cartridges.

Drunkenness, stealing and gardening tell the story of the rest of Brittlebank's life. After two more convictions for drunkenness—one of which earned him a week on the Hobart Town treadwheel—he was again sent to Maria Island in August 1830.

In October 1830, Brittlebank, then an old man, was sent to Port Arthur on assignment as the new settlement's first gardener. This was at the request of the chief officer, Lieutenant John Russell. Brittlebank apparently was at Port Arthur for only three weeks before returning, ill, to Hobart Town, where he was put in hospital. He was now in his seventies. He was back at Port Arthur within a year, this time as punishment for stealing vegetables from the garden of Government House, Hobart Town. But his age, ill-health and drinking habits made him useless at Port Arthur, which needed young, strong men to do the clearing, carrying and building needed at a new settlement. Brittlebank was sent back to Hobart Town.

His last recorded conviction was in February 1832: he was again sent to Port Arthur, this time for stealing a silver spoon, being drunk and 'employing a boy to convey spirits into PB' (prisoners' barracks). Nothing further is entered on his record. He may have died at Port Arthur. It is just possible that he was the 'wretched old man in chains' referred to by James Ross in 1836 (see Eyewitness 5, 'A slip to the bottom of the ladder').

Convict record

BRITTLEBANK, Ebenezer: Transported 7 years, York, January 1825.

Arrived September 1825 per *Medina*.

5 January 1826—neglect of duty, repeated misconduct in service of his master, confined to prisoners' barracks.

6 February 1826—drunk and disorderly, disobedience, absent from work, attempted to steal plants and seeds, 25 lashes and confined to prisoners' barracks.

18 May 1826—made away with spade and hoe, iron pot, saucepan, frying pan, property of Rev. R. Knopwood, 50 lashes.

19 December 1826—drunk, insolence to military officer, 2 months' chain gang.

10 April 1827—taking axe from guard, discharged.

21 April 1827—absent from work gang, drunk, 14 days' chain gang.

19 July 1827—embezzling 10 cartridges, 2 years at penal settlement.

20 May 1830—drunk in prisoners' barracks, 7 days' treadwheel and work in Interior.

23 August 1830—drunkenness, Maria Island 12 months and chain gang.

27 September 1830—neglecting duty by feigning sickness; being a very old man, admonished and discharged.

2 September 1831—pilfering turnips and leeks from garden of Govt. House, sent to Port Arthur.

10 February 1832—stealing silver tea spoon; drunk and employing a boy to convey spirits into prisoners' barracks, 12 months at Port Arthur. (Record ends here.)



LOOKING FURTHER: Other long-serving convicts included William Langham (**Profile 5**), William Yeomans (**Profile 21**) and Henry Belfield (**Profile 25**). **Background 5** and **Eyewitness 5** put Brittlebank's record of offences and punishments in a wider perspective.

PROFILE

Richard Jones *Political prisoner*

On 19 September 1842, a convict recently arrived at Port Arthur after being transported from Ireland was ordered, with all other prisoners, to attend a Church service. At regular intervals, ever since the settlement was established some twelve years earlier, all convicts had been required to attend Divine Service and worship as Protestants, whether or not that was their belief. In 1842 the Wesleyan [Methodist] **Rev. John Manton** was the Chaplain. He was firm in his Protestantism and in later writings showed some prejudice against Roman Catholics.

This convict was different from his fellows, many of whom, like him, were Roman Catholic. His name was Richard Jones. He was born in Dublin in 1812. He became a clerk, and developed a keen interest in Irish politics. He became involved with a movement known as Ribbonism, banned by the British Government. The declared aim of this movement was to protect and defend the interests of Catholics against the Protestant Irish Orangemen. (Ireland's religious disputes are not a recent phenomenon.)

Jones was first imprisoned in 1840, charged with having murdered an Orangeman (possibly following a street dispute) and being a member of a banned organisation. He tried unsuccessfully to escape from gaol in August 1840, soon after receiving a seven-year transportation sentence.

During Jones's journey to Van Diemen's Land, guards thought they detected a conspiracy by the prisoners to seize the ship, the *Isabella Watson*. Jones, alleged to have been the ringleader, and a number of other prisoners were charged with attempted mutiny on their arrival in Hobart Town in August 1842, but the charges were not proven and all were acquitted. Jones was immediately sent to Port Arthur to serve for two and a half years, under the recently established probationary system.

Soon after Jones's arrival at Port Arthur, the Governor, Sir John Franklin, visited the settlement. Jones took the opportunity to present Sir John with a written petition, as was the right of all prisoners, asking that he be excused from attending Divine Worship because he was a conscientious Roman Catholic and did not wish to be forced to worship against his beliefs. The Governor returned the petition because it was in the wrong form.

Jones then wrote to the Roman Catholic Vicar-General in Hobart Town, Rev. John Therry, who sought official approval for Jones to be excused from worship until the appointment of a Catholic chaplain at Port Arthur. Such an appointment had been 'under consideration' for over a year. Therry's request also was turned down by the Governor and his Executive Council.

Jones gave up waiting. On that day, 19 September, he refused to join his fellow prisoners in their march up the hill to the Church. On the complaint of Superintendent **William Cart**, the Commandant, **Charles Booth**, ordered that Jones be put in solitary confinement for four days for refusing to obey an order. Booth also notified the authorities in Hobart Town.

The Government didn't know what to do. Sir John called a special meeting of the Executive Council to discuss this 'matter of extreme importance': the incident was considered a grave threat to penal security and discipline. The Senior Military Officer for the Colony said the Army's practice of freedom of worship should also apply to convicts. The Colonial Secretary said it was a simple matter of discipline. The Chief Police Magistrate said that while Jones should have been separated from his fellows, he should not have been formally charged and punished. Finally, the Executive Council endorsed Booth's action in punishing Jones.

Jones tried again. This time, on 8 October, he walked out of Church and was given 36 lashes. The lash was not used again, but twice more in the following month he was put in solitary confinement for a few days.

Jones was eventually given special treatment as a 'conscientious objector', being allowed to remain in his cell on Sundays. He was well behaved; in fact, he otherwise appears to have been a model prisoner, and he served out his time without any further recorded offence.

A prisoner named Joseph Green, also an Irishman, caused another flurry in the Government a year later by also refusing to attend Divine Service. The Government looked at this case as pure insubordination. Green, it was said, did not have Jones's genuine religious scruples and was punished accordingly. Not long afterwards, all Catholic prisoners at Port Arthur (about 185) refused to attend Divine Service. Faced with mass opposition, the Government agreed to their requests.

A Catholic Catechist (or instructor), John O'Halloran, arrived very soon afterwards and in 1844 the first Catholic priest, Father William Bond, took up his post. The same year a group of Catholic boys rebelled at Point Puer, across the bay. They soon were given a catechist of their own faith.

Richard Jones was given a ticket-of-leave early in 1845 and was freed in June 1847. The records do not reveal his career after that, although his attachment to Irish politics may eventually have drawn him back to Ireland.

Convict record

JONES, Richard: Transported 7 years, Dublin City, 20 June 1840.

Arrived 3 August 1842 per *Isabella Watson*. Roman Catholic.

Can read and write. Transported for being a Member of a Secret Society.

5 September 1842—Supreme Court Hobart / Feloniously conspiring to seize the *Isabella Watson*, convict ship, on the High Seas. Acquitted.

19 September 1842—Port Arthur / Misconduct in positively refusing to attend at the place of Divine Worship; Four Days Solitary.

8 October 1842—Misconduct in leaving the place of Divine Worship without authority; 36 stripes.
21 November 1842—Misconduct in positively refusing to attend the place of Divine Worship on the Sabbath; Four days solitary.
26 November 1842—Misconduct in positively refusing to attend the place of Divine Worship on the Sabbath; Four days solitary.
 Released from 1st stage of Probation 3 February 1845.
 Free Certificate 21 June 1847.

LOOKING FURTHER: **Background 6** and **Eyewitness 8** provide general information on religious matters. **Profile 20** is about Rev. Manton, who conducted Divine Service when Jones was at Port Arthur. The stories of other political prisoners are in **Profiles 14, 30 and 35**. Cart is the subject of **Profile 16** and Booth of **Profile 31**.

PROFILE

34

Edward Murphy *Soldier*

Edward Murphy was born in 1823 in Kilkenny, Ireland. Eighteen years later, his home town became the headquarters of the 99th (Lanarkshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot. The colour and apparent glamour of army life must have contrasted sharply in Murphy's eyes with the drabness and poverty of his existence in an Irish provincial town. The youth joined up and soon afterwards his regiment moved to Liverpool in England.

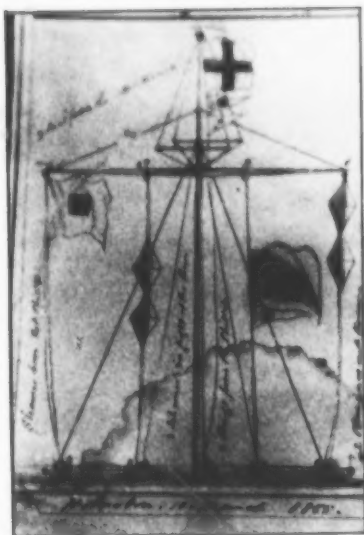
Private Murphy sailed from Portsmouth with 28 other soldiers and an officer of his regiment on 19 January 1842, aboard the convict transport *Isabella*, bound for Sydney. His party guarded the prisoners for the



voyage out. For the next six years Murphy was stationed at Newcastle (160km north of Sydney), at the newly established settlement on Port Philip Bay (later Melbourne), and at Hobart Town. During this time he found army life was getting him down and deserted a number of times. The result was a taste of prison life, on the wrong side of the bars.

Back in Sydney, a young Irishwoman, a Protestant from County Armagh named Matilda Finch, took his fancy and in July 1848 he and Matilda were married. Within a year he was posted back to Hobart Town, this time with Matilda, and three months later their first child, a daughter named Agnes, was born. Within 18 months he was posted to the Tasman Peninsula probation station at Cascades (Koonya). Matilda went with him and in November 1852, at Cascades, a son, Frederick, was born.

Private Murphy did not show much liking for army life. He had several bouts in the cells while on the Peninsula and ended up ill at the Port Arthur Hospital for eighteen days in May 1854. But he did have another interest—painting and drawing—and over the years he developed these skills.



He produced numerous ink and watercolour drawings, largely on nautical themes such as arrays of signalling flags, and on his return to Hobart Town was commissioned to do work for a prominent businessman whose patronage may have been the cause of a local newspaper article praising his work. Private Murphy's artistic and family interests in Hobart Town persuaded him to leave his regiment when it departed from Tasmania in 1855 and transfer to the newly arrived 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment. Meanwhile, his first daughter died in 1854 and another daughter, Elizabeth, was born soon after.

In 1855 Edward Murphy and his family returned to Tasman Peninsula, this time to a posting at the guard station at Eaglehawk Neck, with its much publicised line of dogs to prevent prisoners from escaping. His second son, John, was born at Eaglehawk Neck in 1856.

Murphy, never a happy soldier, had left the army in 1860, when his occupation was listed on an official document as painter. The family were in Launceston for a short while before emigrating to try their luck in the gold-rich colony of Victoria. Ex-Private Murphy, by now running a successful business in signwriting and plastering, died at the age of 48 in 1871. Matilda, with a family of seven—four boys and three girls—survived him.

LOOKING FURTHER: *Eyewitness 17* gives a general impression of the duties and conditions of military service. *Background 4* and *8* and *Eyewitness 9* and *19* are also useful. Another soldier's story is in *Profile 10*.

PROFILE
'35

William Smith O'Brien *Political prisoner*

The most prominent movement for Irish self-rule in the mid-19th century was Young Ireland; its leading figure was William Smith O'Brien, parliamentarian and political prisoner.

O'Brien was born in 1803, the son of Sir Edward O'Brien and his wife Charlotte (née Smith), and could claim direct descent from the legendary Irish king, Brian Boru. His family was Anglican and had considerable wealth and influence. He was educated at Harrow and Cambridge and in 1829 was elected to Parliament at Westminster. He was a Member for seventeen years, becoming a prominent spokesman for his country and leader of the Young Ireland Movement.

In 1848 O'Brien, frustrated by officialdom, sought to raise an armed rebellion against British rule. The 'uprising' never came off. It was poorly planned and badly executed, and on 29 July 1848 police arrested him with three fellow conspirators after a minor skirmish near Kilkenny. The four were tried for treason and sentenced to death, but the sentences were commuted to transportation for life.

O'Brien and his fellow 'State Prisoners' arrived in Hobart Town on board the *Swift* on 27 October 1849. Eight other agitators involved with O'Brien were sent to Van Diemen's Land over the next three years.

Unlike his fellows, O'Brien refused to promise not to escape, so instead of being offered a ticket-of-leave he was sent immediately to Maria Island, recently reopened as a penal settlement. After nine months and a foiled attempt to escape by sea, he was ordered to be transferred to Port Arthur.

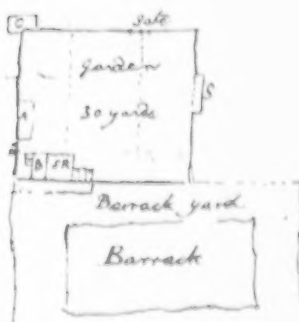
O'Brien left his Maria Island prison in a small cutter to sail direct to his new 'apartment' at Port Arthur, where he arrived on 22 August 1850. In October of that year he described the settlement this way:

'Its appearance is very picturesque as seen from the water. It is surrounded on every side by wooden hills and looks more like a pretty village placed in a romantic position than an abode of misery and crime.' And just before leaving a month later, he was able to see something of Ireland in the countryside: he climbed to the summit of Mount Arthur, behind the settlement, and was reminded by the Peninsula's wide forests of his home, of the Galtees, the Wicklow Hills and the Kerry Mountains.

At Port Arthur as at Maria Island, O'Brien was treated as a special case: ill-treatment might have been embarrassing for the Home Government. Although confined in his movements, he had his own house and garden and managed to correspond widely with people both in the Colonies and the United Kingdom. His imprisonment became a rallying cause for the Irish Home Rule movement and was loudly debated in London and Dublin.

O'Brien's Cottage—sketch plan from his Journal.

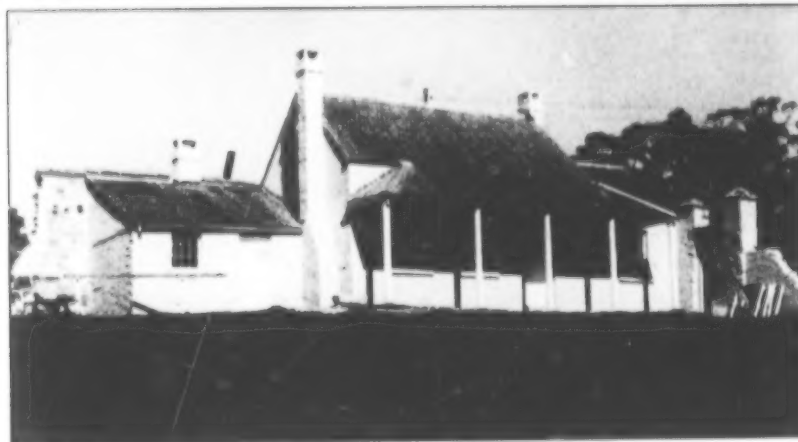
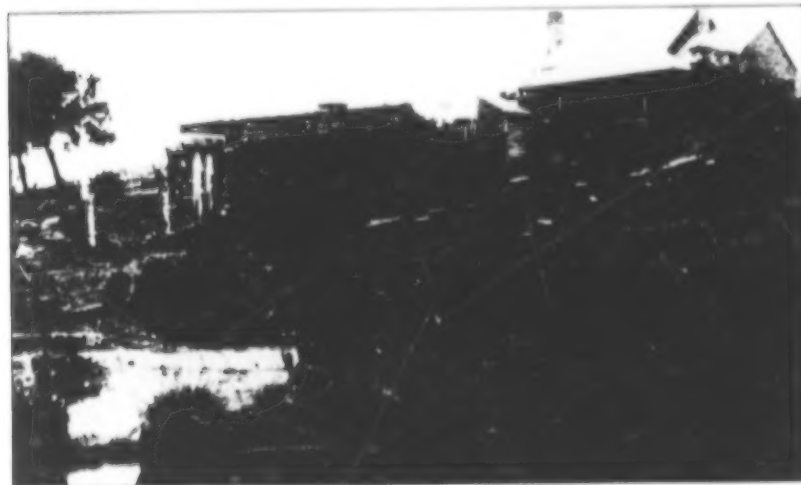
SR—Sitting-room;
B—Bedroom, A—Shed used at first by sentry, who was subsequently removed;
C—Station for armed constable, added after my arrival; S—Sentry.



Finally, in response to a public petition in Hobart Town, O'Brien agreed to accept the Government's conditions and take a ticket-of-leave. He left Port Arthur on 18 November 1850. While some of his fellow 'State Prisoners' took advantage of their tickets-of-leave to escape to America, he remained for three and a half more years in Van Diemen's Land, mainly at New Norfolk but also at Avoca and briefly at Richmond.

In June 1854, O'Brien was given a conditional pardon, allowing him to leave the Colony. He was feted at celebrations in New Norfolk, Hobart Town and Launceston before leaving for Europe. He lived in Brussels until July 1856, when a free pardon enabled him to return to Ireland.

While remaining in the public eye as a respected Irish leader, O'Brien did not return to active politics. He died in June 1864, aged 60.



LOOKING FURTHER: Eyewitness 18 provides details of O'Brien's life and routines at Port Arthur. His situation is worth comparing with those of three other political prisoners: Linus Miller (**Profile 14**), John Frost (**Profile 30**) and Richard Jones (**Profile 33**). For examples of military guards, see **Profiles 10** and **34**.

PORT ARTHUR

1. MODEL PRISON
2. THE ASYLUM, NOW A VISITORS' CENTRE
3. THE PAUPERS' MESS
4. THE HOSPITAL
5. CHRISTEN'S COTTAGE
6. TOWER COTTAGES
7. SIGNAL STATION
8. THE COMMANDANT'S HOUSE
9. THE GUARD TOWER
10. COURTHOUSES AND LIBRARY
11. PENITENTIARY
12. DOCKYARD AREA
13. GOVERNMENT COTTAGE
14. THE CHURCH
15. CIVIL OFFICERS' HOUSES

16. SMALL SIGNALPOST FOR LOCAL COMMUNICATION
17. HARRIS K. 12 THE BATTERY
18. MAGAZINE TOWER 191
19. THE REMARKABLE CLIFF
20. FORESTER'S COTTAGE 1869
21. DAIRY 1868
22. SITE OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE 1848
23. VENTRY BOX
24. SCORPION ROCK SENE LOOKOUT
25. WHITE
26. THE NORTHWIND
27. THE TOWER
28. THE GUARD TOWER
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50. THE GUARD TOWER

FORESTER'S PENINSULA
TASMAN PENINSULA

HISTORICAL RUINS LOCATION OF DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS SHOWN IN DOTTED LINES
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES ERIGED AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE SETTLEMENT